ALL WESTERN WINNERS

NO. 2

WINTER

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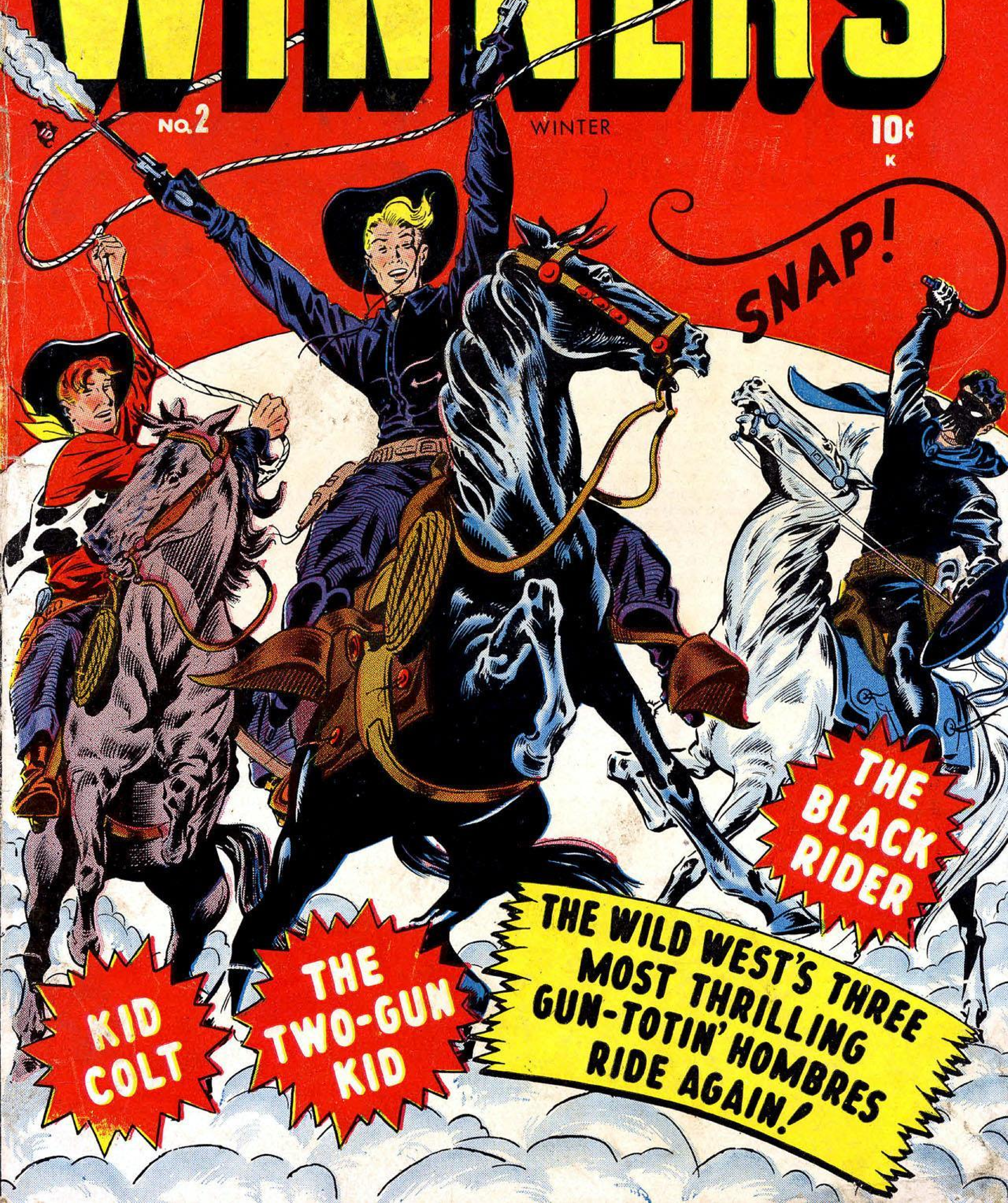

SNAP!
THE BLACK RIDER
THE WILD WEST'S THREE MOST THRILLING GUN-TOTIN' HOMBRES RIDE AGAIN!
KID COLT
THE TWO-GUN KID

LOOK SLIM, SLENDER

AND FEEL LIKE SIXTEEN

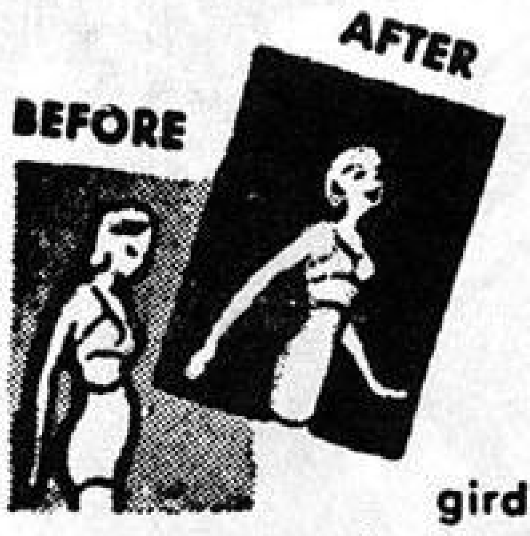
INSTANTLY!

STREAMLINE THE APPEARANCE OF YOUR FIGURE

with Amazing Slenderizing "SLIM-LINE"

Does your tummy spread where it should be slim? Does your waist bulge where it should be slender? Does your shape make you look years older than you really are. Do you want to *do* something about it? Of course you do! Nobody wants to have an ugly, shapeless figure.

Why go all through life just hoping you'd have a glamorous figure when you can actually do something about it . . . without effort—and at extremely little cost.



READ WHAT OTHERS SAY. Take the case of Mrs. J. P., for instance, who writes, "I never thought I could look thin until I tried the SLIM-LINE girdle. Now, I have a shape that pleases me and my husband." Miss R. S. tells us, ". . . and since I wear my SLIM-LINE girdle, I can wear youthful dresses that make me look my age, or younger." Mrs. R. F. writes, "I was doubtful about your claims to make me look and feel younger until I put on my SLIM-LINE girdle. I knew then and there you are 100% right. Please send two more, one for my sister, size 25 waist and one for my mother, size 40 waist. I love its new kind of preshrunk fabric."

These are only three letters picked at random from our files, but they tell a remarkable story to any girl or woman who is concerned about her appearance.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO WEAR. Here again is another amazing SLIM-LINE feature: *Comfort* is built right into it AND it is packed full of "HOLD-IN-POWER". The material is light in weight with a VENTILATED KNIT but amazingly strong. It has to be! Bend-twist-turn-stretch-stoop-recline-do anything you like, your SLIM-LINE slenderizing girdle G-I-V-E-S with every body movement—yet instantly returns to normal, retaining its original shape and contour. Your skin can BREATHE—YOU FEEL COOL AND COMFORTABLE. You won't even be aware you are wearing a girdle.

GLAMOROUS MODELS and MOVIE STARS use the same method of harmonized figure control as provided in *SLIM-LINE* slenderizing girdles. You have as much right to a beautiful figure as anyone. Why not enjoy it! It will bring you added happiness to know that your clothes fit well, look good and improve your appearance. It washes like a dream too!

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

We want you to be completely satisfied with your purchase, because we want you to be a regular SLIM-LINE customer. We want you to tell your friends about it, too. So we don't dare make a single statement that we can't back up. That's the basis on which we sell you your SLIM-LINE SLENDERIZING GIRDLE. If not entirely satisfied, you are the sole judge, return it to us after 10 days trial and we will refund your full purchase price. Nothing could be fairer than that. You have nothing to lose! Send now for *your* SLIM-LINE SLENDERIZING GIRDLE. Regular sizes 25 waist to 30 waist only $3.98. Sizes 32 waist to 40 waist $4.98.

2 LOVELY STYLES. #1, Regular Girdle . . . #2, Panty Girdle with removable snap-on crotch. YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF to try the SLIM-LINE Slenderizing Girdle. See how it will make you look younger, feel younger. See how snug and comfortable it fits. You hardly know you're wearing it. See how it gives you a mental lift. It washes and dries miraculously fast!

WONDER WORKING. SLIM-LINE Slenderizing Girdle is especially designed to make you LOOK INCHES SLIMMER the INSTANT you put it on. SLIM-LINE is not an ordinary garment. It is scientifically designed to help flatten out your stomach, hide flabby rolls of fat, and give shape to your body. It helps support your back too, which improves your posture and helps you to walk with greater poise. CLOTHES FIT BETTER. You look wonderful! You'll enjoy the admiring glances and remarks.

MAIL THIS COUPON NOW

SLIM-LINE CO., Dept. MC-9
871 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Rush to me the SLIM-LINE SLENDERIZING GIRDLE indicated below. I enclose $......... cash, check or money order. My money will be refunded if I am not 100% satisfied.

☐ PANTY GIRDLE in Nude. ☐ In White
☐ REGULAR GIRDLE in Nude. ☐ In White
☐ Small 25-26 Waist; ☐ Medium 27-28;
☐ Large 29-30 at $3.98 each
☐ Circle waist size; 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, at $4.98 each
☐ Send .... extra crotches at 49c each

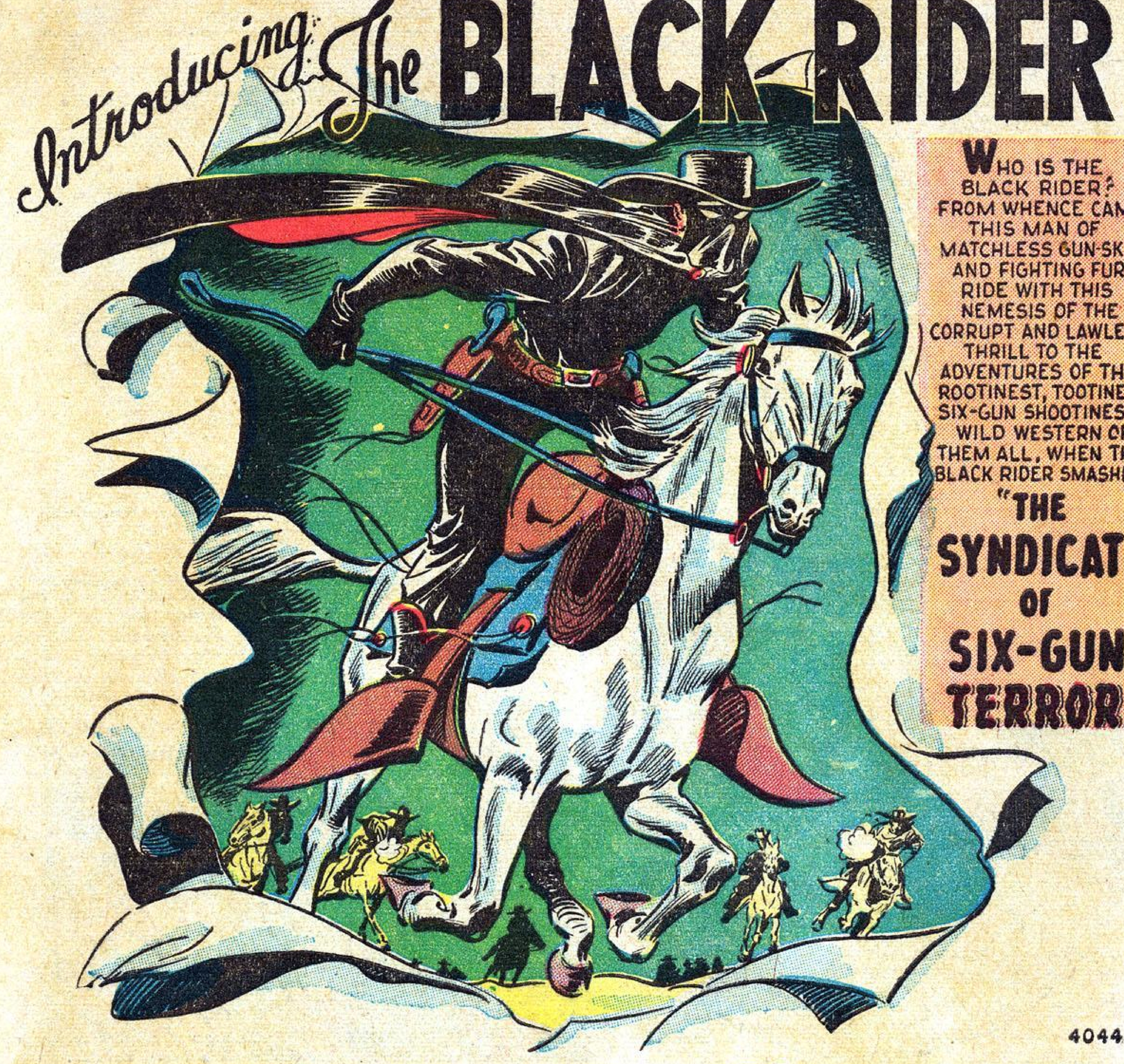
NAME..
ADDRESS..
CITY..............................ZONE........STATE...........

SENT ON APPROVAL

ALL WINNERS is published quarterly by CURRENT DETECTIVE STORIES, INC. Office of Publication: 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. Application for second-class entry pending at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Medina, Ohio. Copyright 1948 by CURRENT DETECTIVE STORIES, INC., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y. Vol. 1 No. 2 Winter 1948 issue. Price 10c per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in U.S.A.

Editorial Consultant: Jean Thompson, M.D., Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Bureau;
Board of Education, New York City

Introducing The BLACK RIDER


WHO IS THE BLACK RIDER? FROM WHENCE CAME THIS MAN OF MATCHLESS GUN-SKILL AND FIGHTING FURY? RIDE WITH THIS NEMESIS OF THE CORRUPT AND LAWLESS! THRILL TO THE ADVENTURES OF THE ROOTINEST, TOOTINEST, SIX-GUN SHOOTINEST WILD WESTERN OF THEM ALL, WHEN THE BLACK RIDER SMASHES-
"THE SYNDICATE OF SIX-GUN TERROR!"

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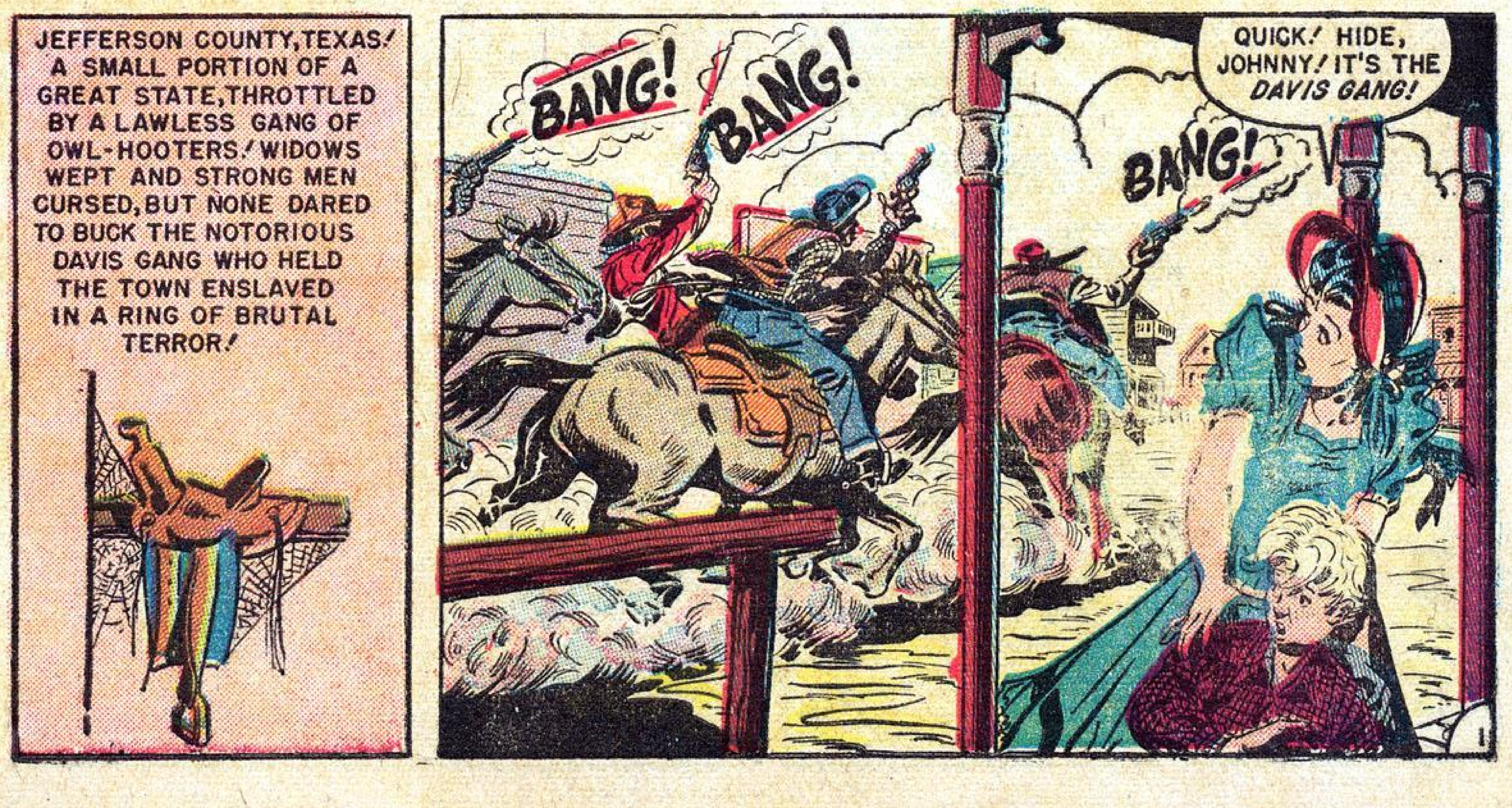
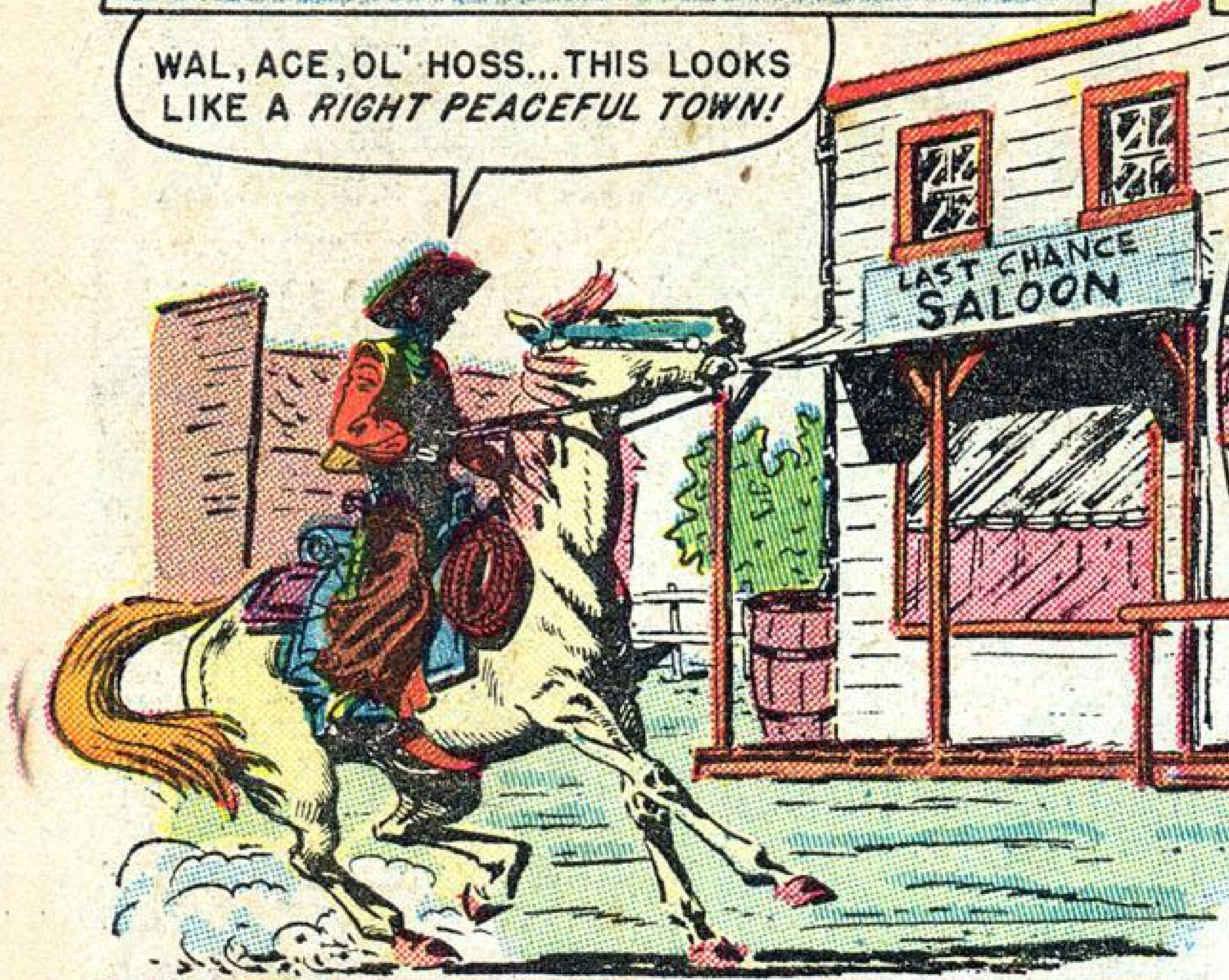
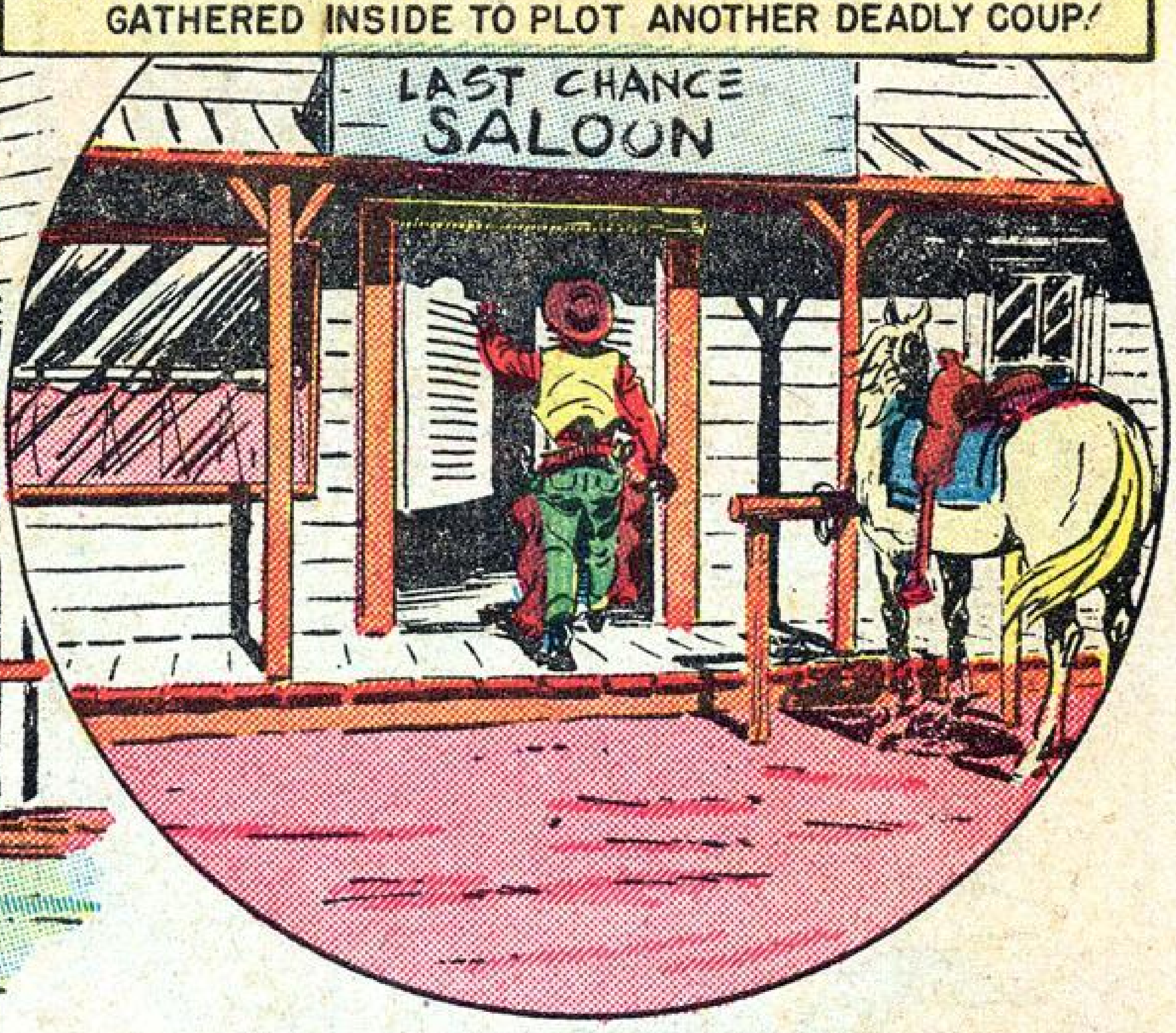

JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS! A SMALL PORTION OF A GREAT STATE, THROTTLED BY A LAWLESS GANG OF OWL-HOOTERS! WIDOWS WEPT AND STRONG MEN CURSED, BUT NONE DARED TO BUCK THE NOTORIOUS DAVIS GANG WHO HELD THE TOWN ENSLAVED IN A RING OF BRUTAL TERROR!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
QUICK! HIDE, JOHNNY! IT'S THE DAVIS GANG!
1

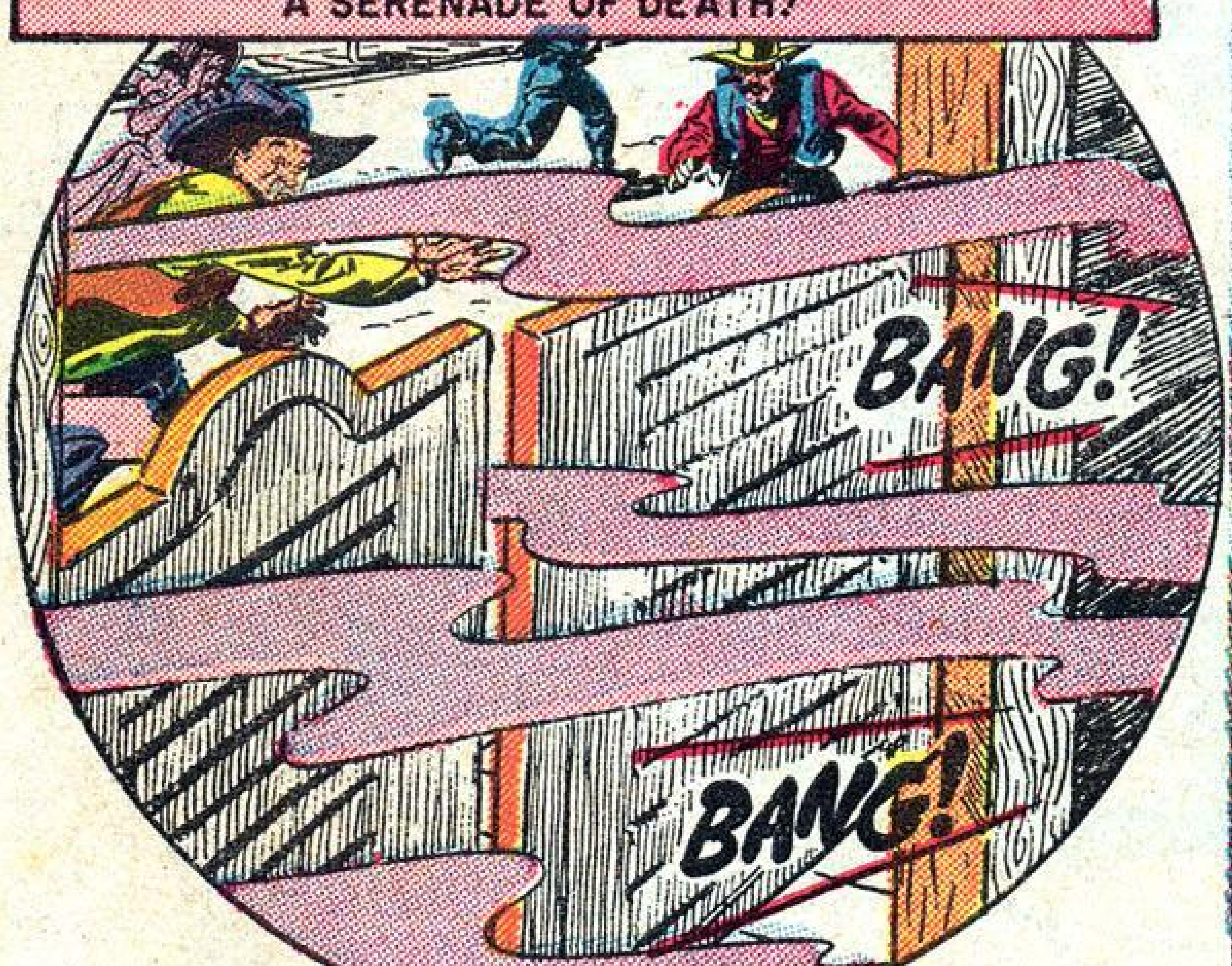
THEN ONE DAY, A LITHE YOUNG RIDER LOPED IN FROM THE BORDER! STILL IN HIS TEENS, THIS BATTLE CUB WAS WANTED IN A DOZEN COUNTIES UNDER THE NAME OF THE *CACTUS KID!*


WAL, ACE, OL' HOSS...THIS LOOKS LIKE A *RIGHT PEACEFUL TOWN!*
LAST CHANCE SALOON

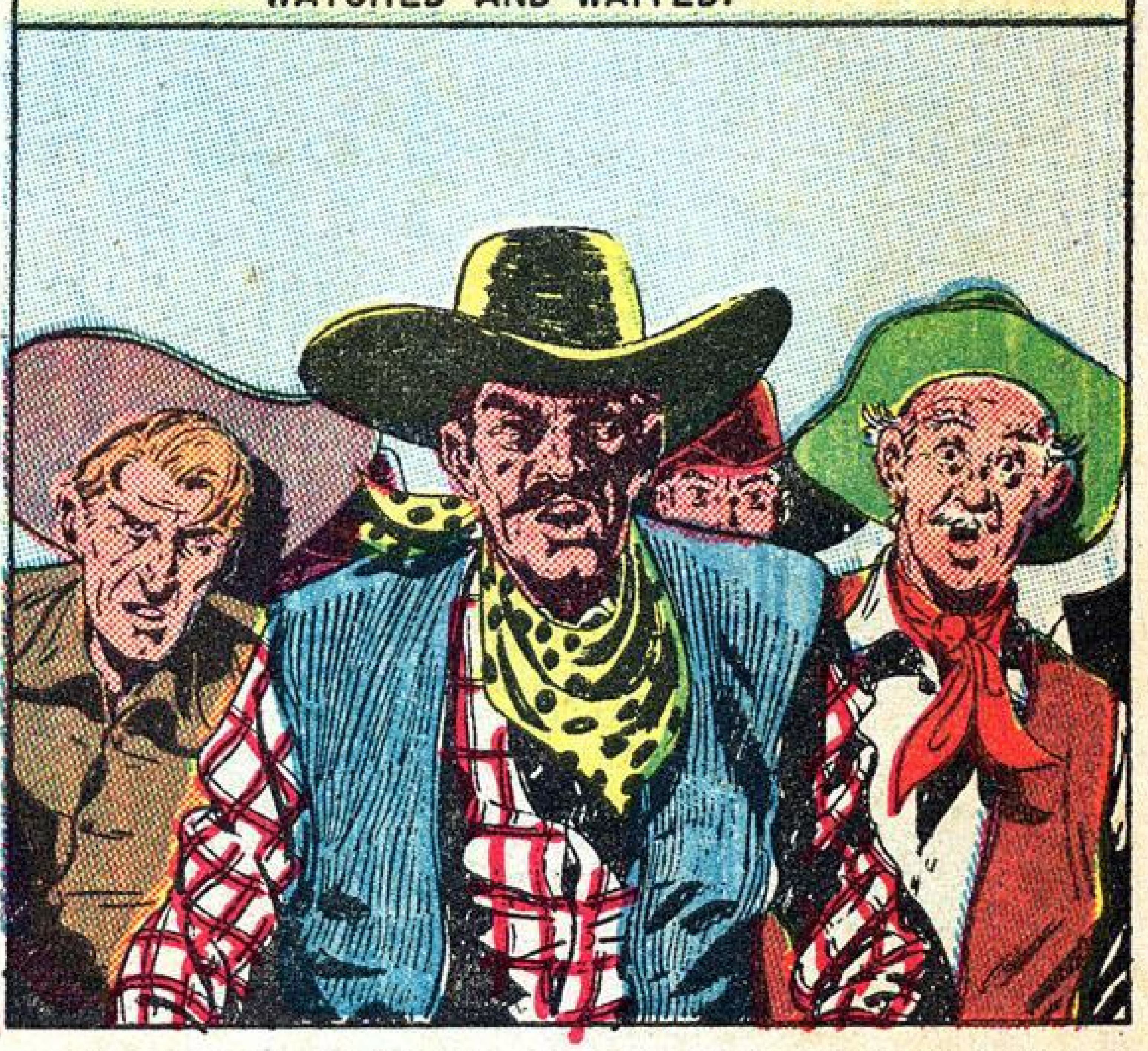
THE CACTUS KID TIED UP HIS HORSE AND ENTERED THE "LAST CHANCE SALOON", UNAWARE THAT CHET DAVIS AND FIVE OF HIS GUN-SLICK LIEUTENANTS WERE GATHERED INSIDE TO PLOT ANOTHER DEADLY COUP!


LAST CHANCE SALOON

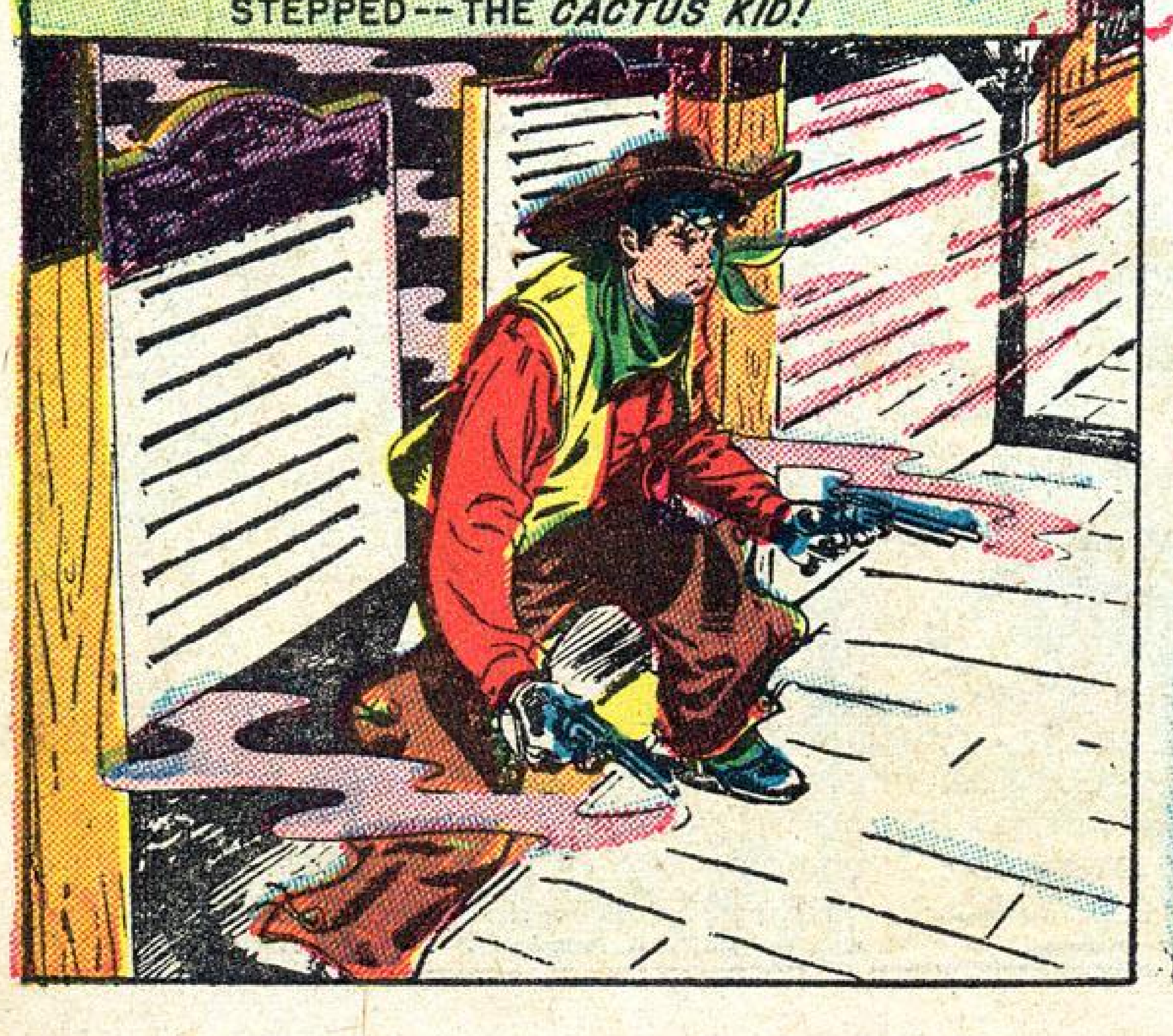
NO ONE KNOWS HOW IT STARTED OR EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED, BUT SUDDENLY THE BARKING SNARL OF SIX-GUNS LACED THROUGH THE FROZEN SILENCE IN A SERENADE OF DEATH!



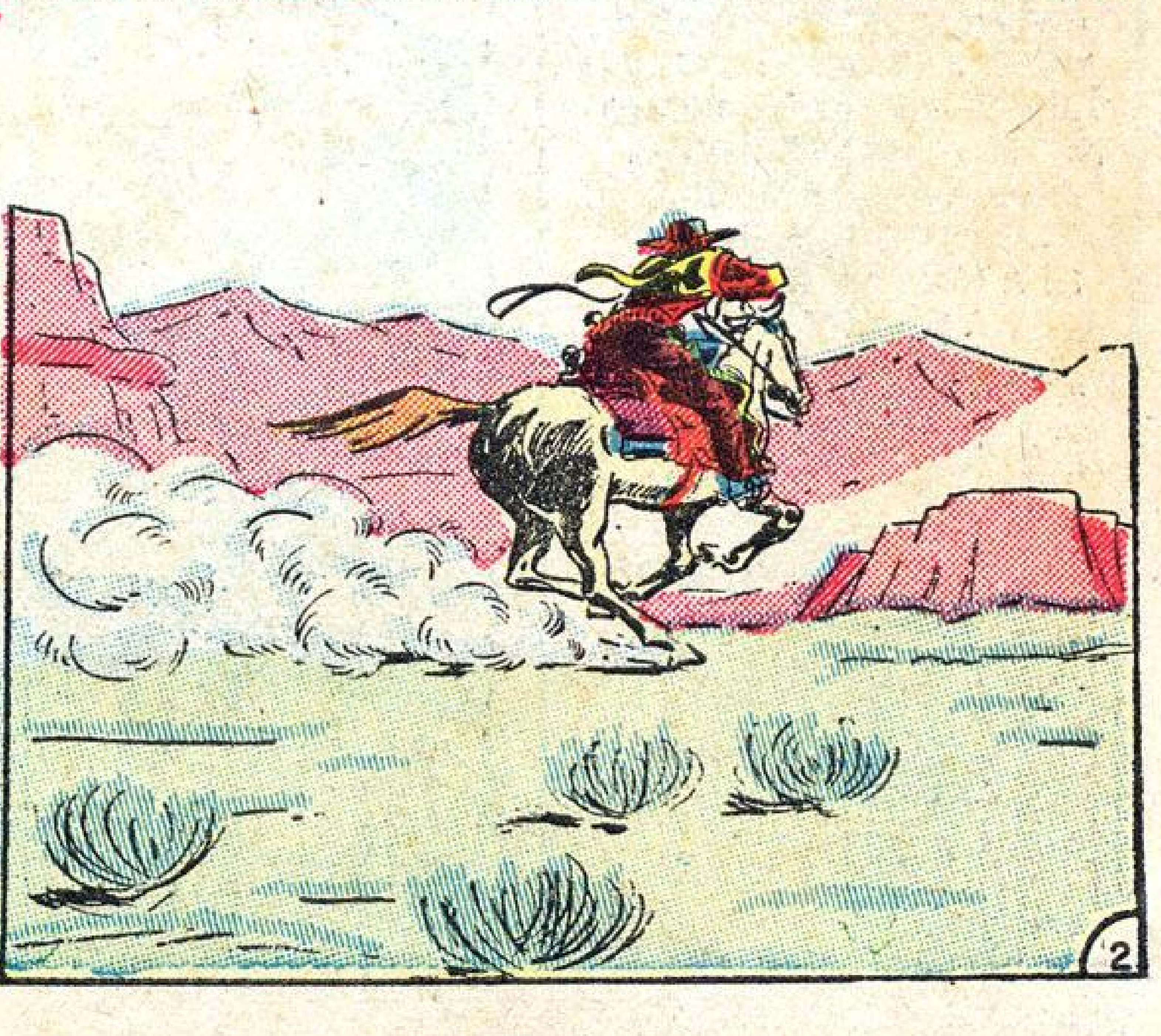
THEN AN INTENSE SILENCE FELL LIKE A CLOAK OF DOOM! TIME STOOD STILL AS THE AWED POPULACE WATCHED AND WAITED!

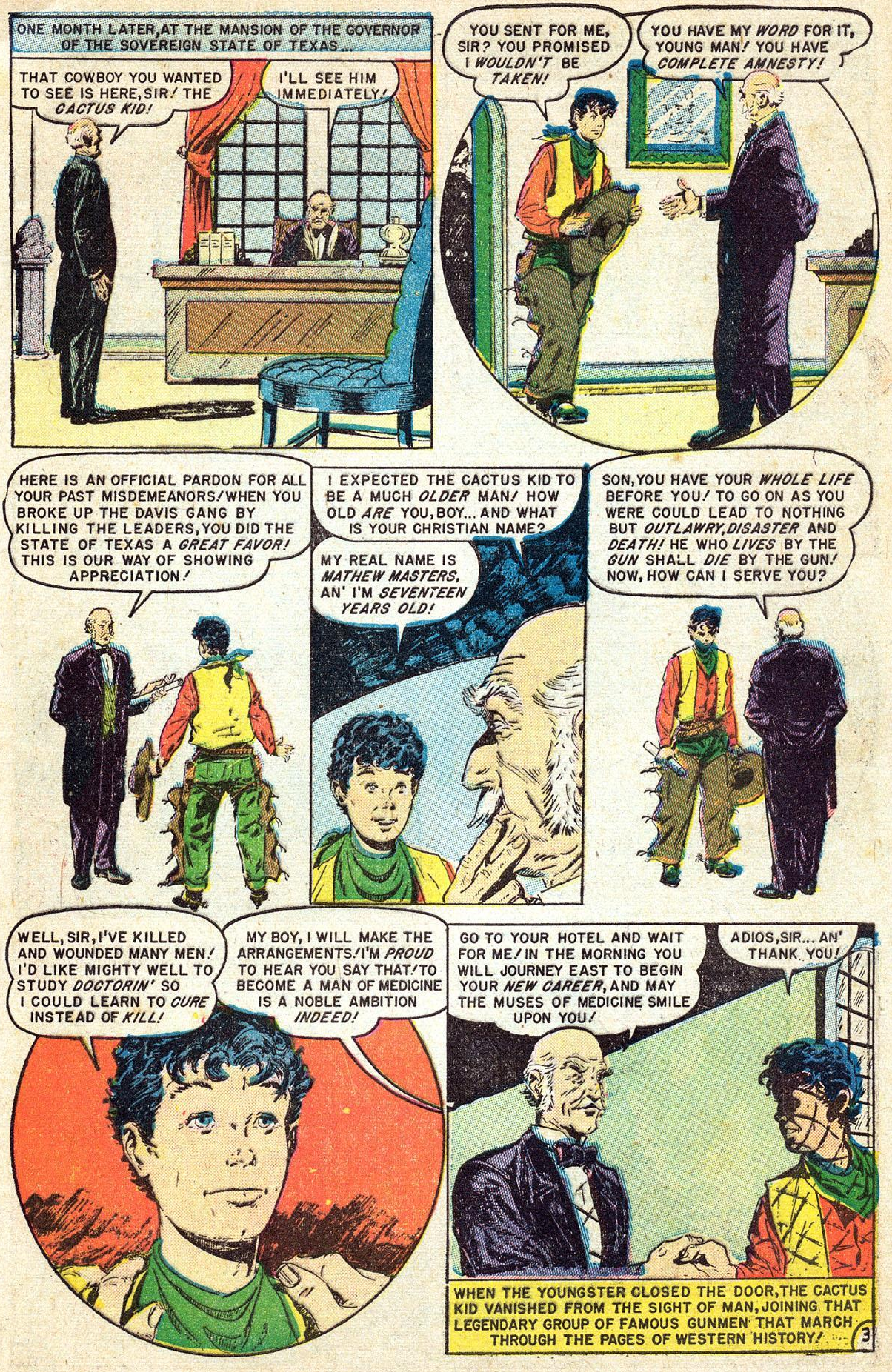


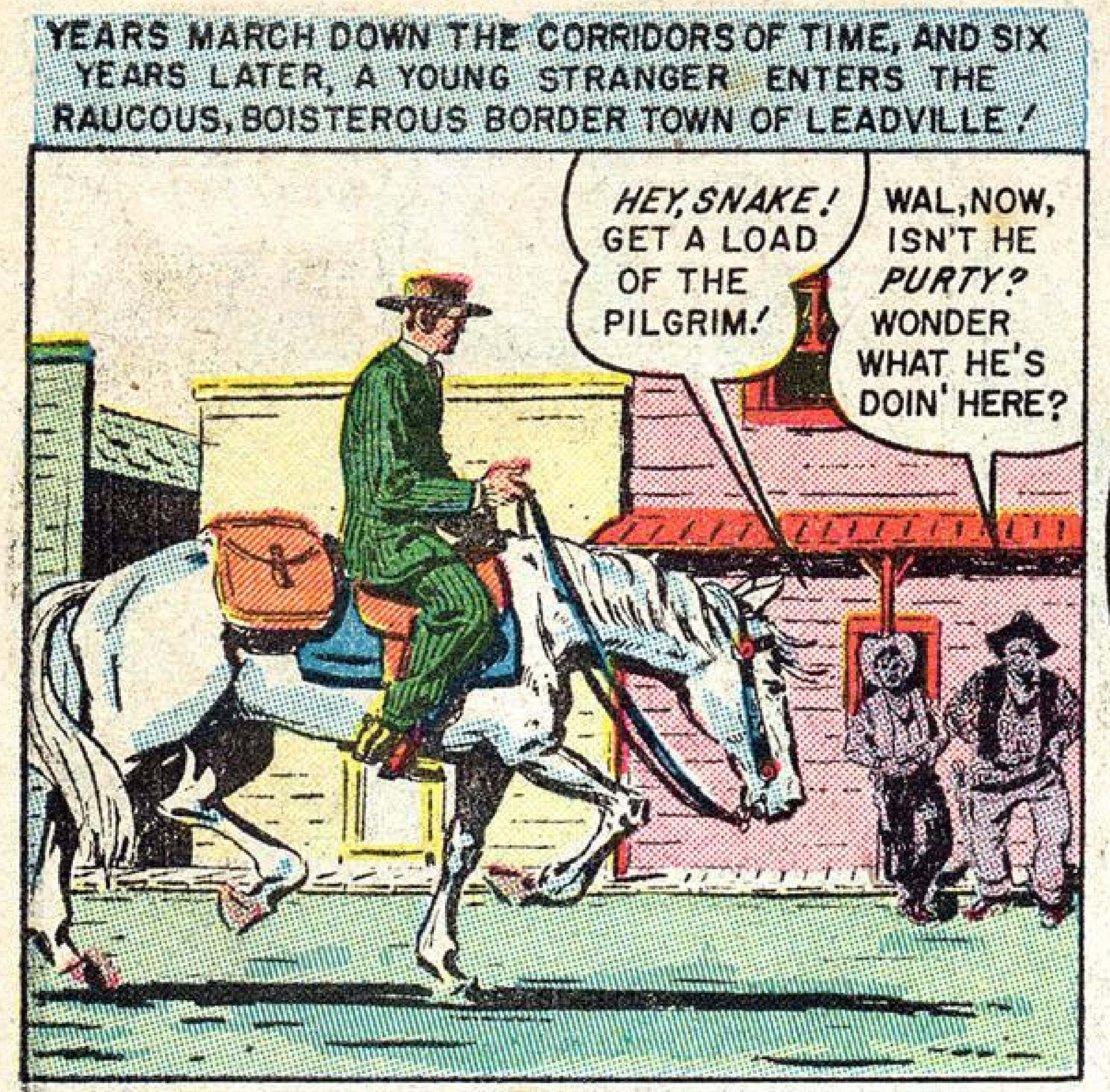
SEVEN GUN-FAST MEN OF VIOLENCE HAD ENTERED THIS DEN OF DEATH--BUT *ONE* EMERGED *ALIVE!* SUDDENLY THE SWINGING DOORS OPENED AND OUT STEPPED--THE *CACTUS KID!*

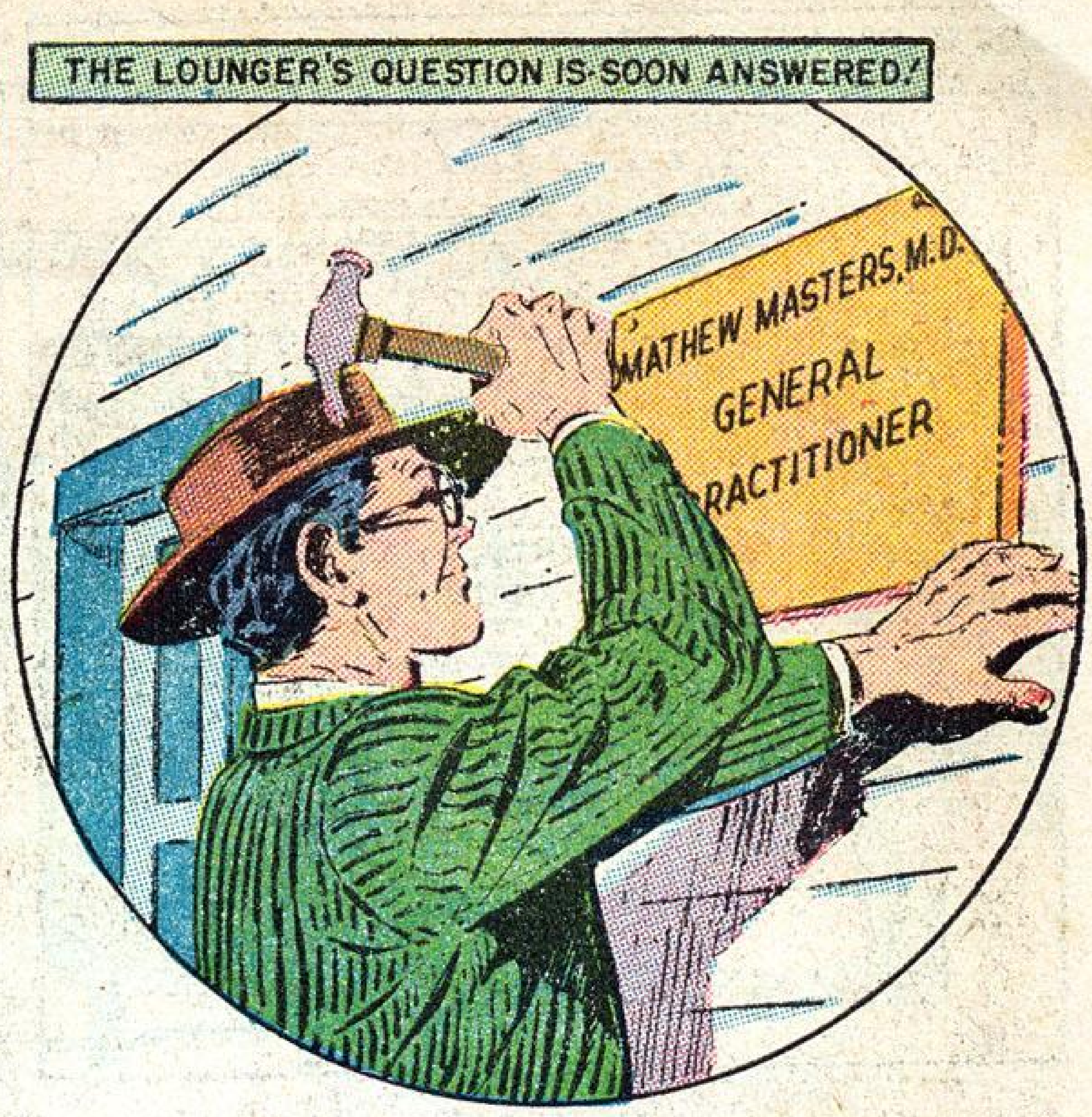


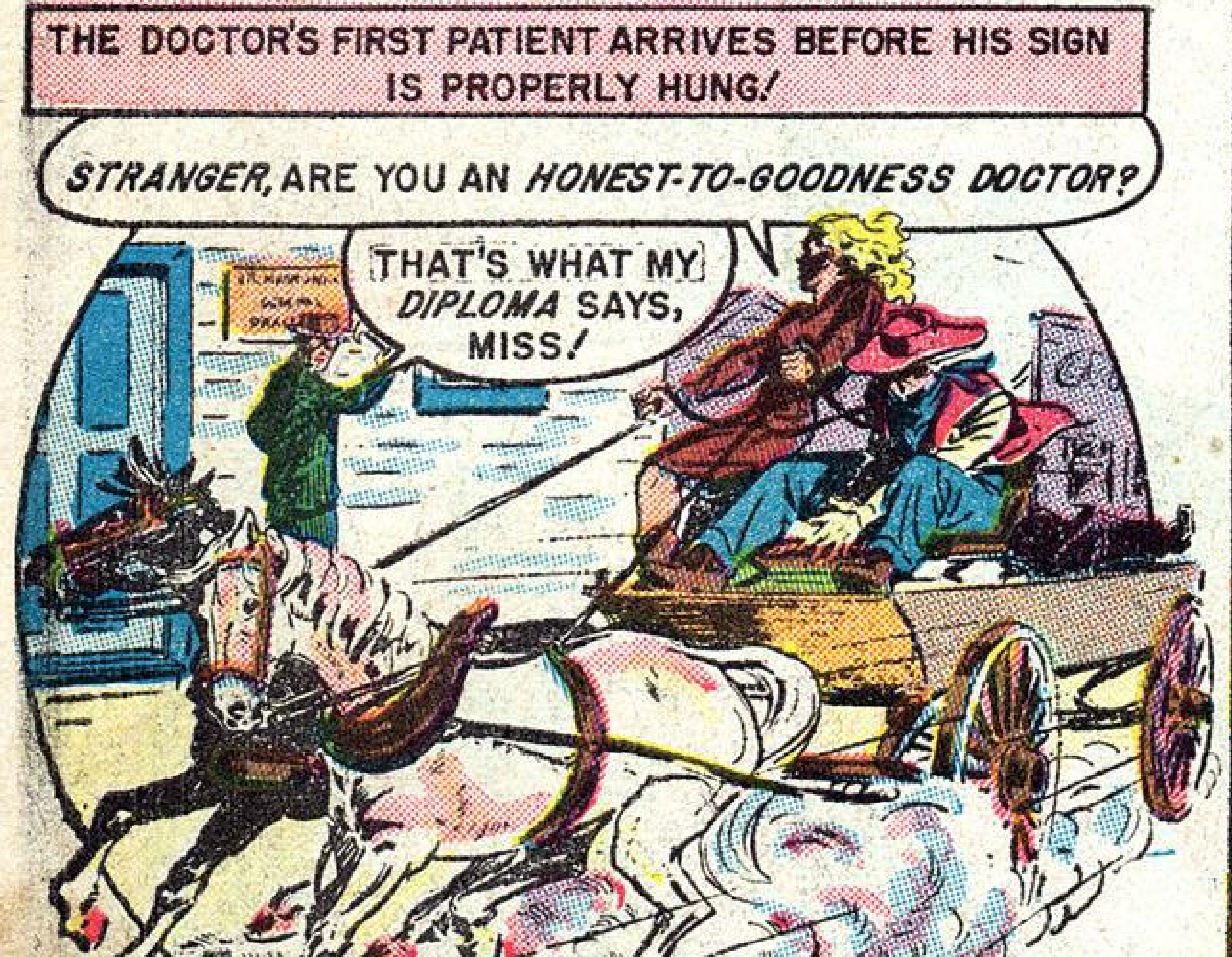
WITH A BOUND, THE KID REACHED HIS HORSE, SLID INTO THE SADDLE AND SLAMMED AWAY INTO THE PURPLE DISTANCE!

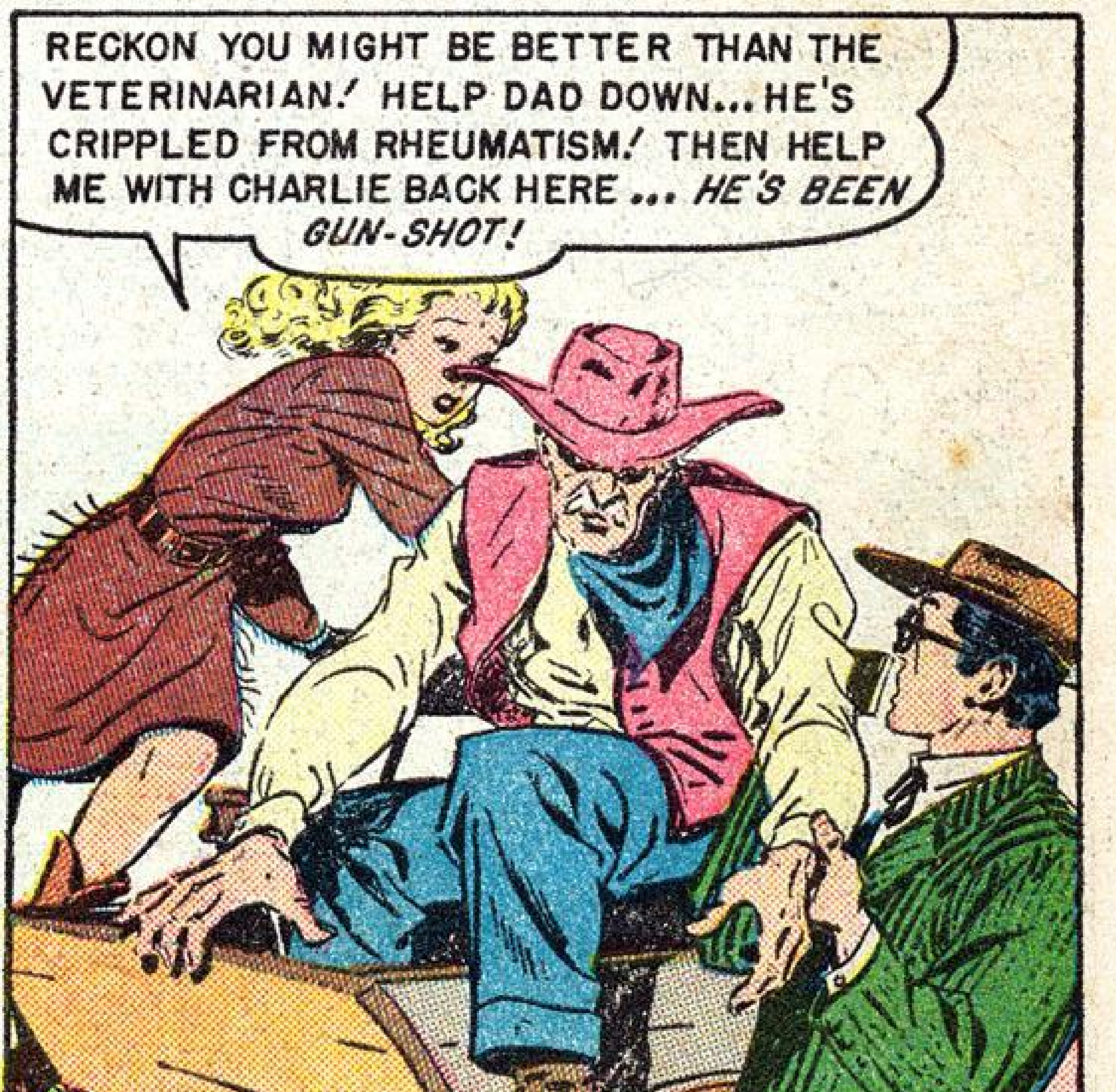


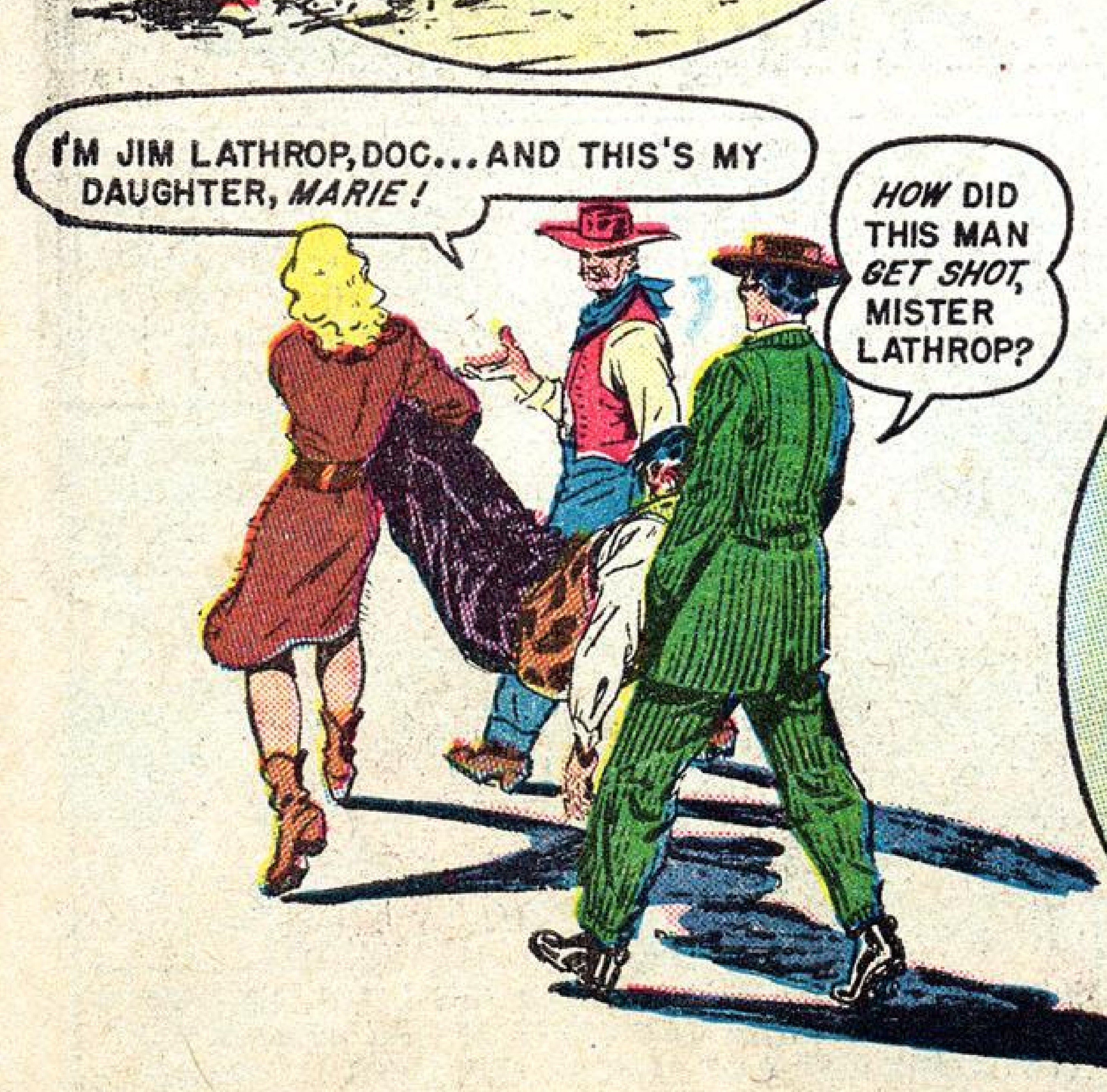

ONE MONTH LATER, AT THE MANSION OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF TEXAS...
THAT COWBOY YOU WANTED TO SEE IS HERE, SIR! THE *CACTUS KID!*
I'LL SEE HIM IMMEDIATELY!
YOU SENT FOR ME, SIR? YOU PROMISED I *WOULDN'T* BE *TAKEN!*
YOU HAVE MY *WORD* FOR IT, YOUNG MAN! YOU HAVE *COMPLETE AMNESTY!*
HERE IS AN OFFICIAL PARDON FOR ALL YOUR PAST MISDEMEANORS! WHEN YOU BROKE UP THE DAVIS GANG BY KILLING THE LEADERS, YOU DID THE STATE OF TEXAS A *GREAT FAVOR!* THIS IS OUR WAY OF SHOWING APPRECIATION!
I EXPECTED THE CACTUS KID TO BE A MUCH *OLDER* MAN! HOW OLD *ARE* YOU, BOY... AND WHAT IS YOUR CHRISTIAN NAME?
MY REAL NAME IS *MATHEW MASTERS,* AN' I'M *SEVENTEEN* YEARS OLD!
SON, YOU HAVE YOUR *WHOLE LIFE* BEFORE YOU! TO GO ON AS YOU WERE COULD LEAD TO NOTHING BUT *OUTLAWRY, DISASTER* AND *DEATH!* HE WHO *LIVES* BY THE *GUN* SHALL *DIE* BY THE GUN! NOW, HOW CAN I SERVE YOU?
WELL, SIR, I'VE KILLED AND WOUNDED MANY MEN! I'D LIKE MIGHTY WELL TO STUDY *DOCTORIN'* SO I COULD LEARN TO *CURE* INSTEAD OF *KILL!*
MY BOY, I WILL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS! I'M *PROUD* TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT! TO BECOME A MAN OF MEDICINE IS A NOBLE AMBITION *INDEED!*
GO TO YOUR HOTEL AND WAIT FOR ME! IN THE MORNING YOU WILL JOURNEY EAST TO BEGIN YOUR *NEW CAREER*, AND MAY THE MUSES OF MEDICINE SMILE UPON YOU!
ADIOS, SIR... AN' THANK YOU!
WHEN THE YOUNGSTER CLOSED THE DOOR, THE CACTUS KID VANISHED FROM THE SIGHT OF MAN, JOINING THAT LEGENDARY GROUP OF FAMOUS GUNMEN THAT MARCH THROUGH THE PAGES OF WESTERN HISTORY!

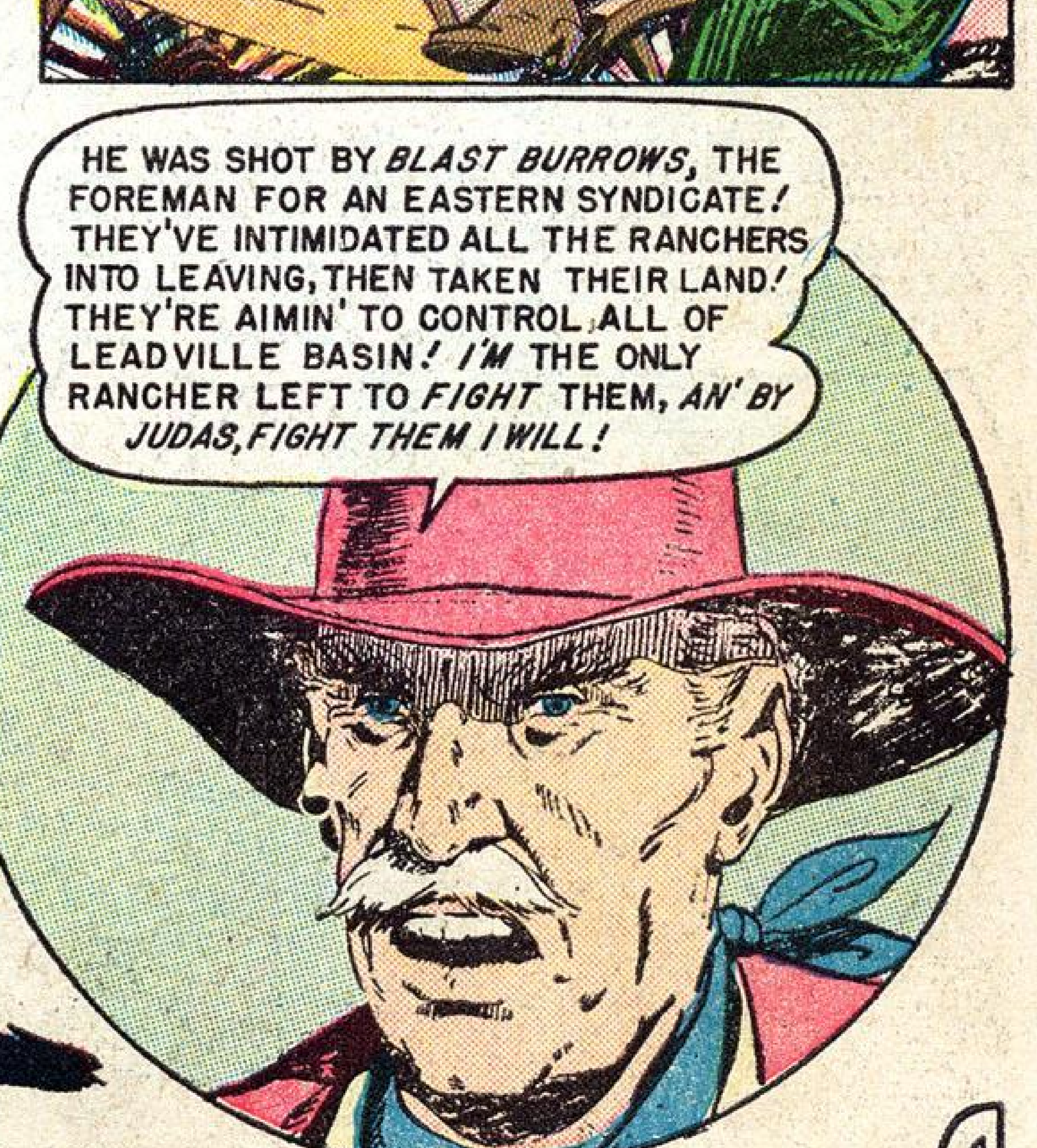

YEARS MARCH DOWN THE CORRIDORS OF TIME, AND SIX YEARS LATER, A YOUNG STRANGER ENTERS THE RAUCOUS, BOISTEROUS BORDER TOWN OF LEADVILLE!
HEY, SNAKE! GET A LOAD OF THE PILGRIM!
WAL, NOW, ISN'T HE PURTY? WONDER WHAT HE'S DOIN' HERE?

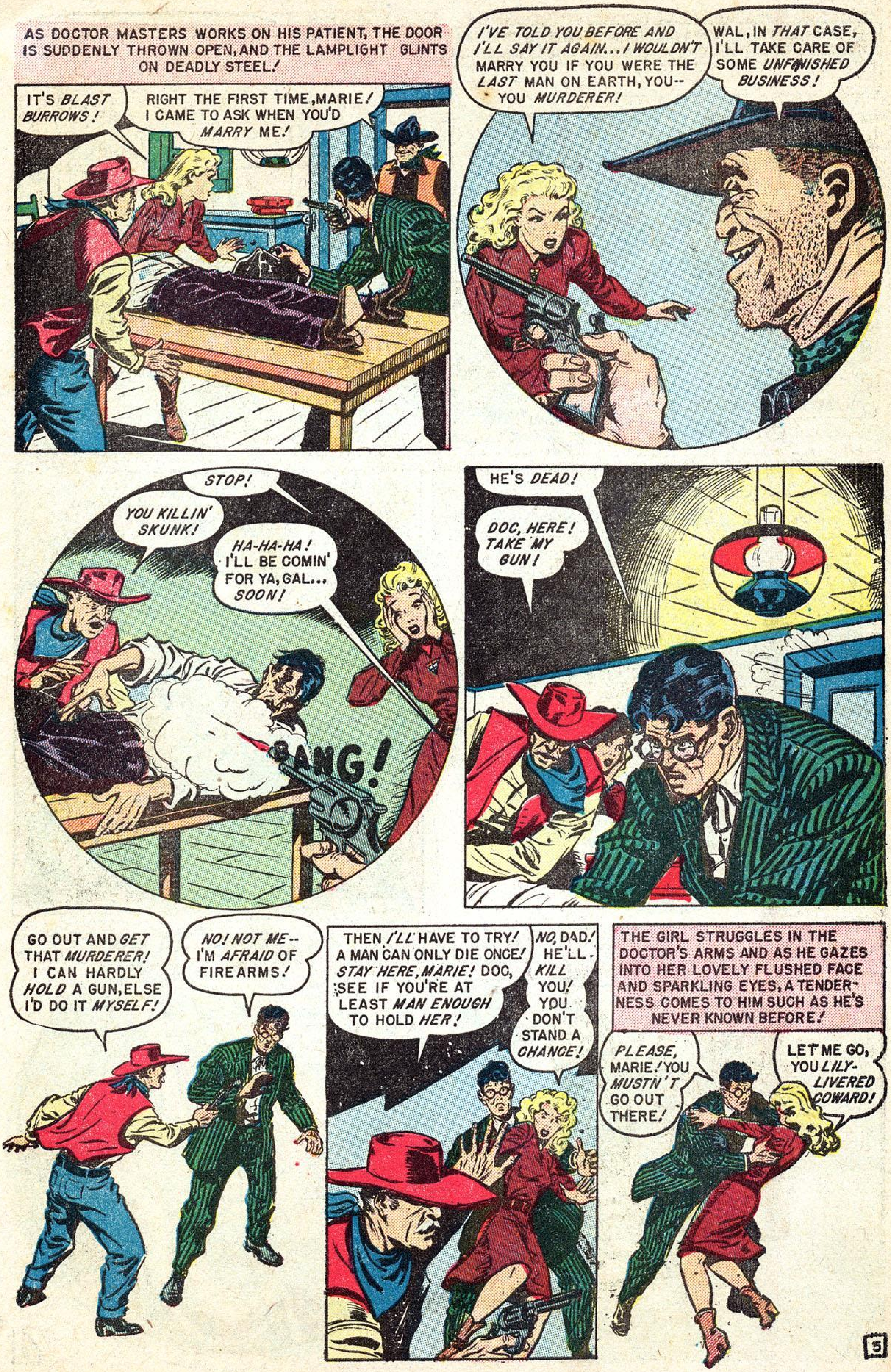

THE LOUNGER'S QUESTION IS SOON ANSWERED!
MATHEW MASTERS, M.D.
GENERAL
RACTITIONER

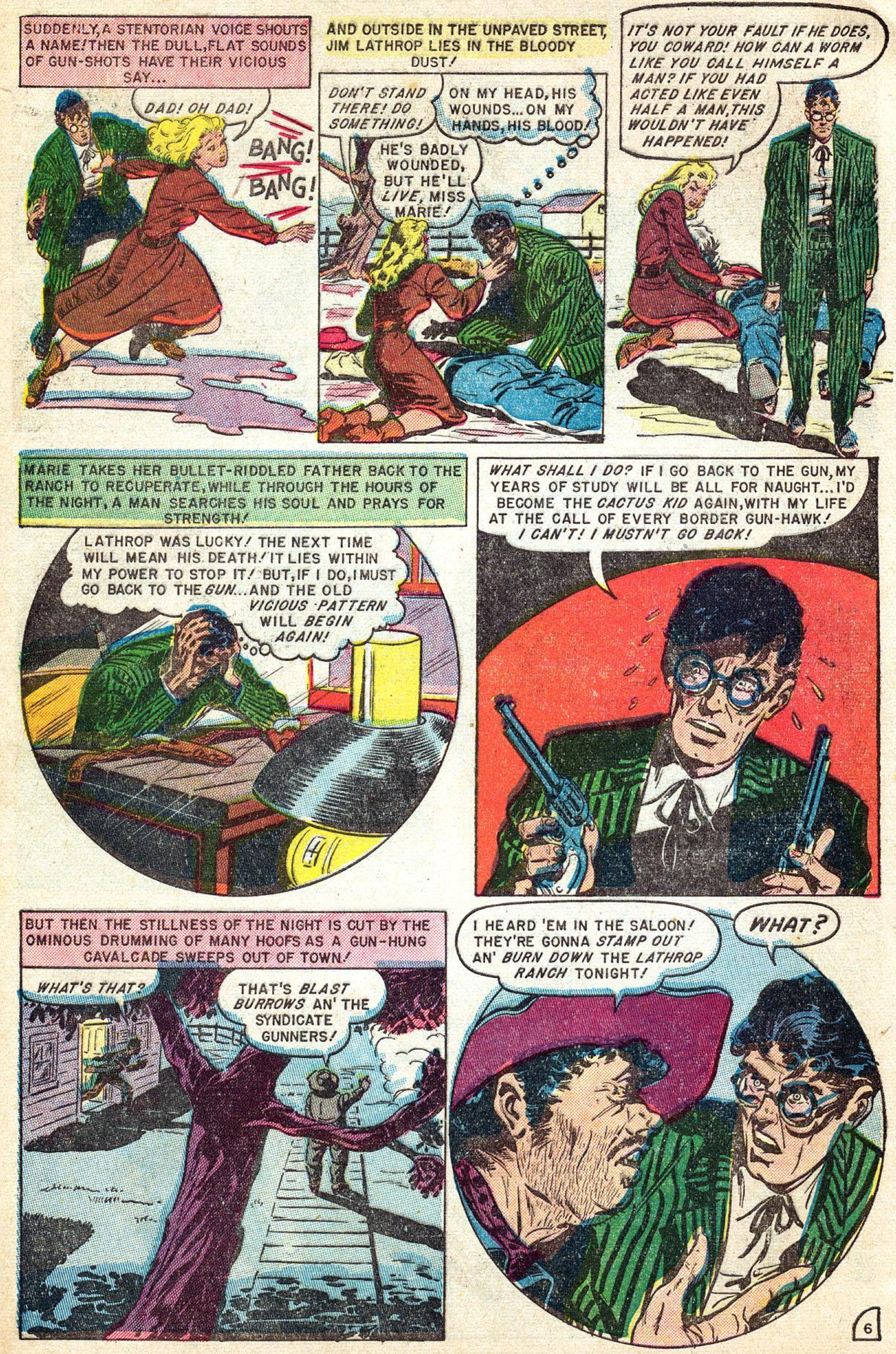

THE DOCTOR'S FIRST PATIENT ARRIVES BEFORE HIS SIGN IS PROPERLY HUNG!
STRANGER, ARE YOU AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS DOCTOR?
THAT'S WHAT MY DIPLOMA SAYS, MISS!

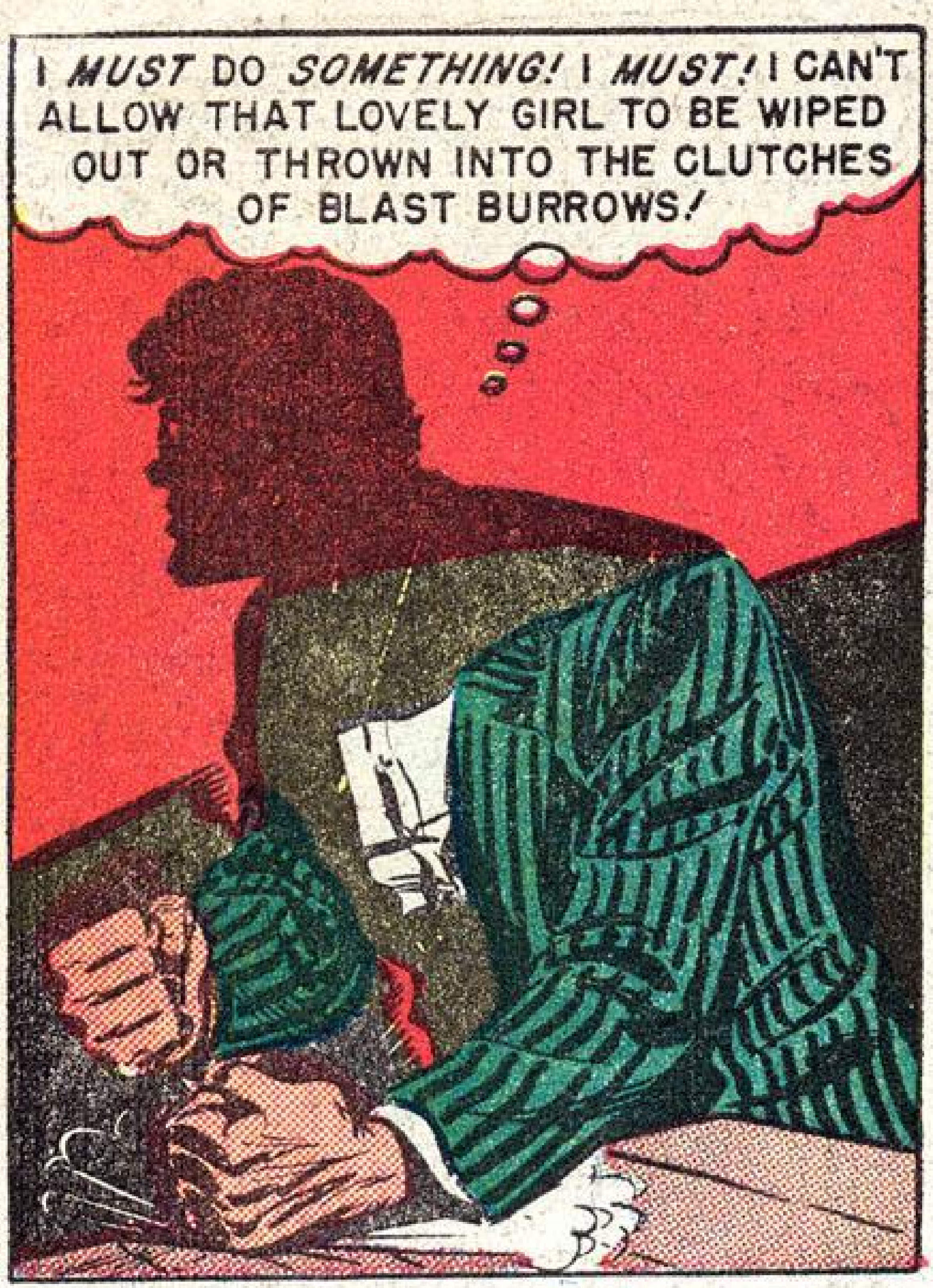

RECKON YOU MIGHT BE BETTER THAN THE VETERINARIAN! HELP DAD DOWN... HE'S CRIPPLED FROM RHEUMATISM! THEN HELP ME WITH CHARLIE BACK HERE ... HE'S BEEN GUN-SHOT!

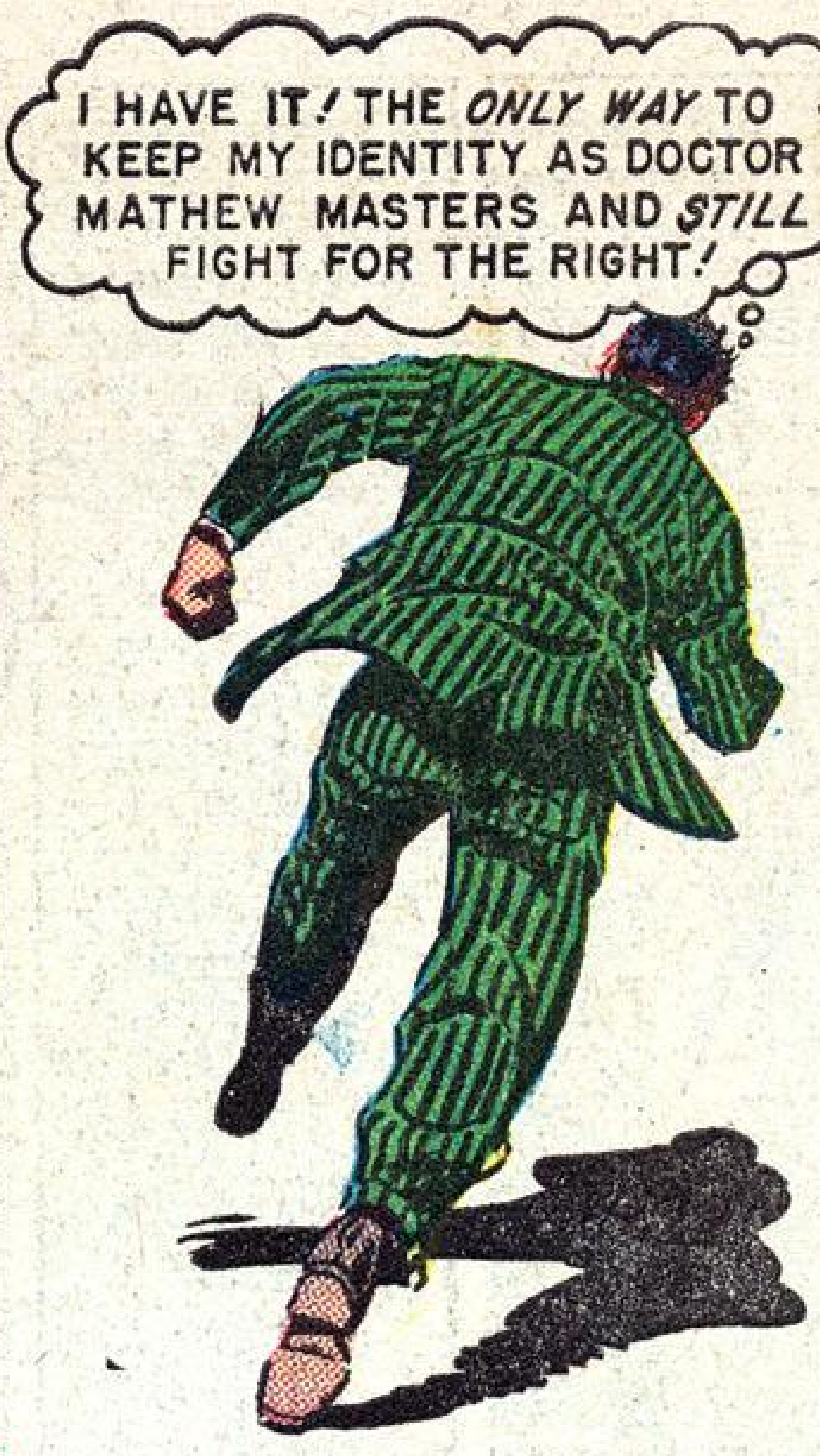

I'M JIM LATHROP, DOC... AND THIS'S MY DAUGHTER, MARIE!
HOW DID THIS MAN GET SHOT, MISTER LATHROP?

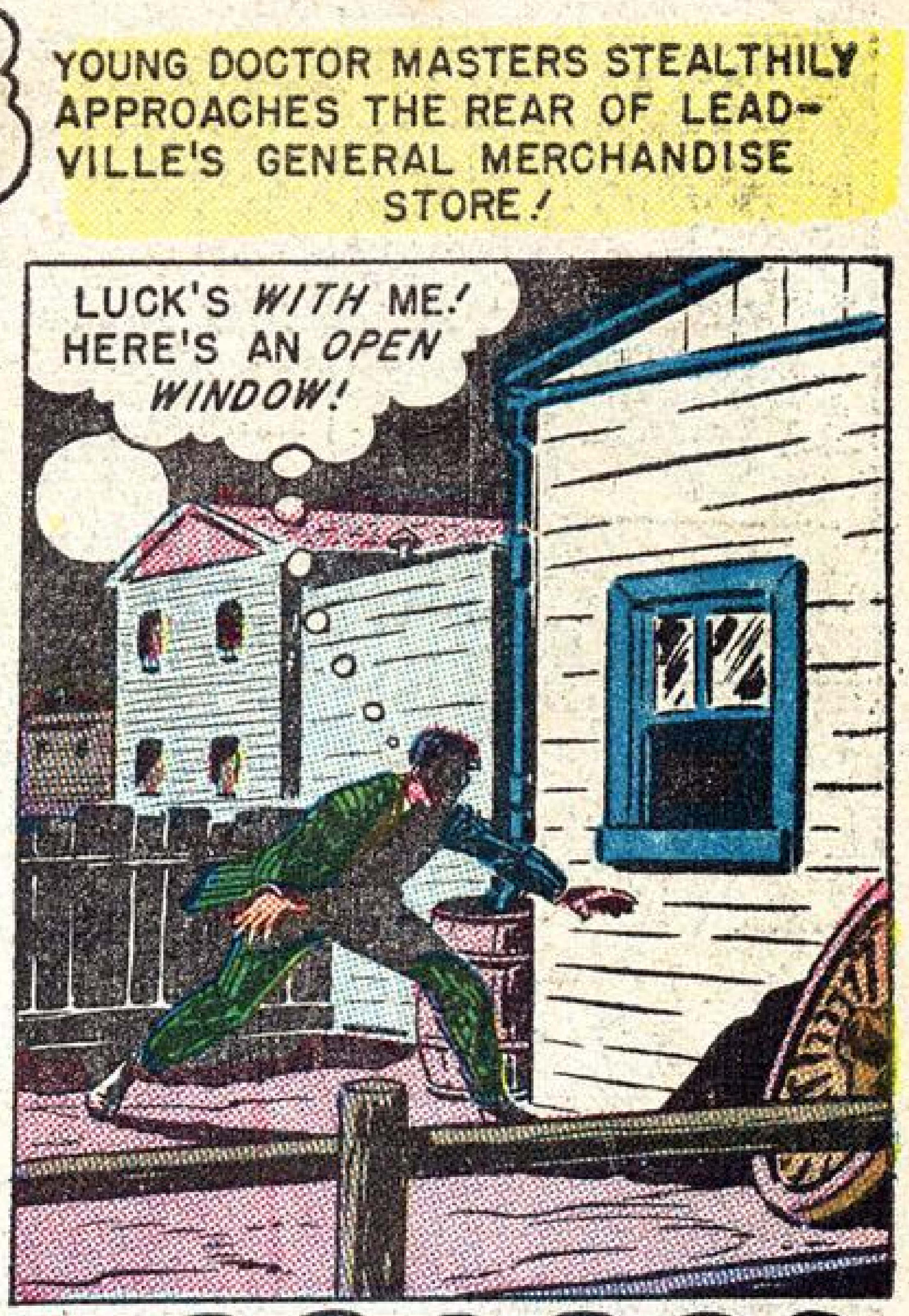

HE WAS SHOT BY BLAST BURROWS, THE FOREMAN FOR AN EASTERN SYNDICATE! THEY'VE INTIMIDATED ALL THE RANCHERS INTO LEAVING, THEN TAKEN THEIR LAND! THEY'RE AIMIN' TO CONTROL ALL OF LEADVILLE BASIN! I'M THE ONLY RANCHER LEFT TO FIGHT THEM, AN' BY JUDAS, FIGHT THEM I WILL!

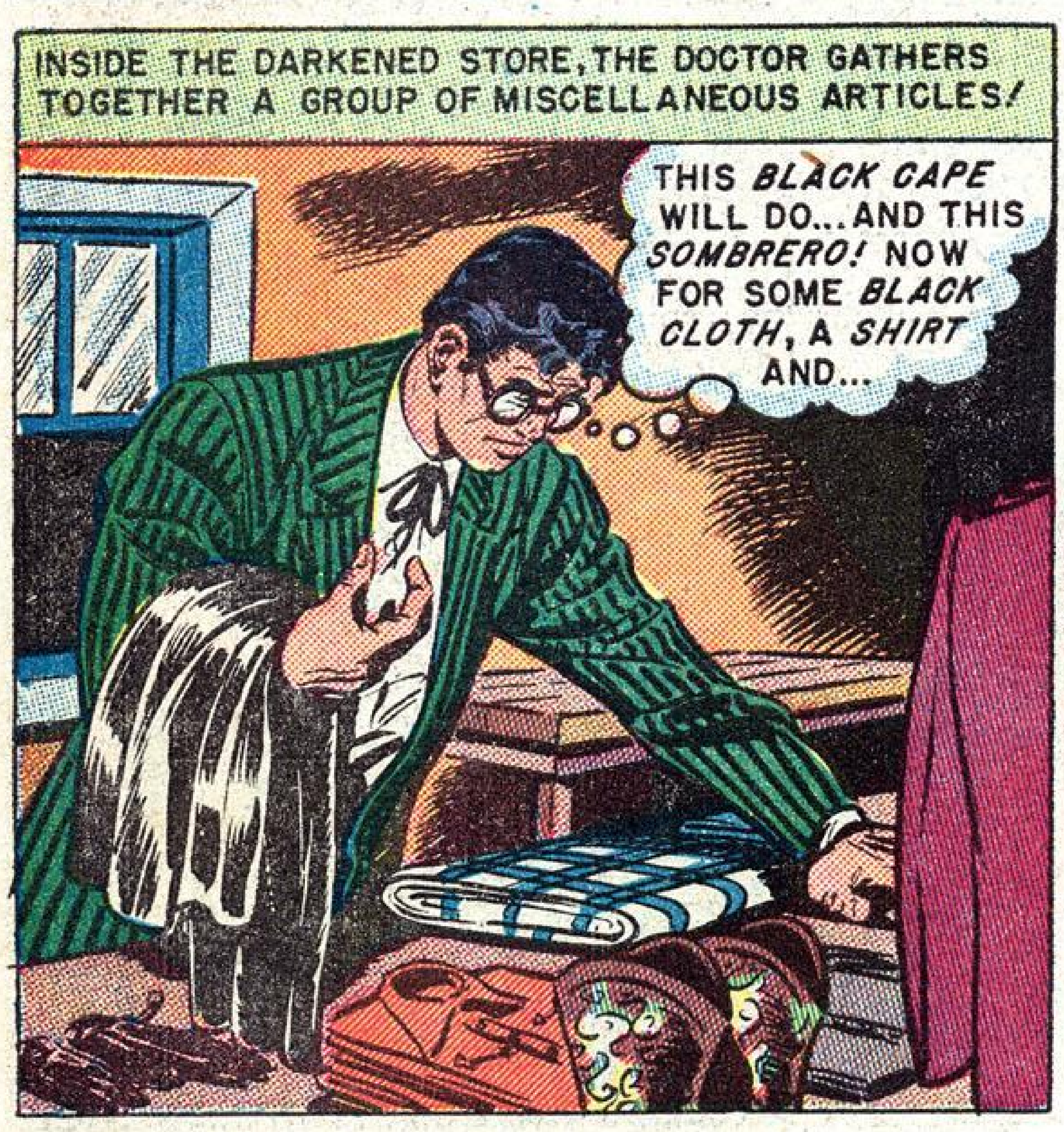

AS DOCTOR MASTERS WORKS ON HIS PATIENT, THE DOOR IS SUDDENLY THROWN OPEN, AND THE LAMPLIGHT GLINTS ON DEADLY STEEL!
IT'S *BLAST BURROWS*!
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, MARIE! I CAME TO ASK WHEN YOU'D *MARRY* ME!
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN... I WOULDN'T MARRY YOU IF YOU WERE THE *LAST* MAN ON EARTH, YOU-- YOU *MURDERER*!
WAL, IN *THAT* CASE, I'LL TAKE CARE OF SOME *UNFINISHED BUSINESS*!
STOP!
YOU KILLIN' SKUNK!
HA-HA-HA! I'LL BE COMIN' FOR YA, GAL... *SOON!*
BANG!
HE'S *DEAD*!
DOC, HERE! TAKE MY GUN!
GO OUT AND *GET* THAT *MURDERER*! I CAN HARDLY *HOLD* A GUN, ELSE I'D DO IT *MYSELF*!
NO! NOT ME-- I'M *AFRAID* OF FIREARMS!
THEN *I'LL* HAVE TO TRY! A MAN CAN ONLY DIE ONCE! *STAY HERE, MARIE!* DOC, SEE IF YOU'RE AT LEAST *MAN ENOUGH* TO HOLD *HER*!
NO, DAD! HE'LL *KILL* YOU! YOU DON'T STAND A *CHANCE*!
THE GIRL STRUGGLES IN THE DOCTOR'S ARMS AND AS HE GAZES INTO HER LOVELY FLUSHED FACE AND SPARKLING EYES, A TENDERNESS COMES TO HIM SUCH AS HE'S NEVER KNOWN BEFORE!
PLEASE, MARIE! YOU MUSTN'T GO OUT THERE!
LET ME GO, YOU *LILY-LIVERED COWARD*!

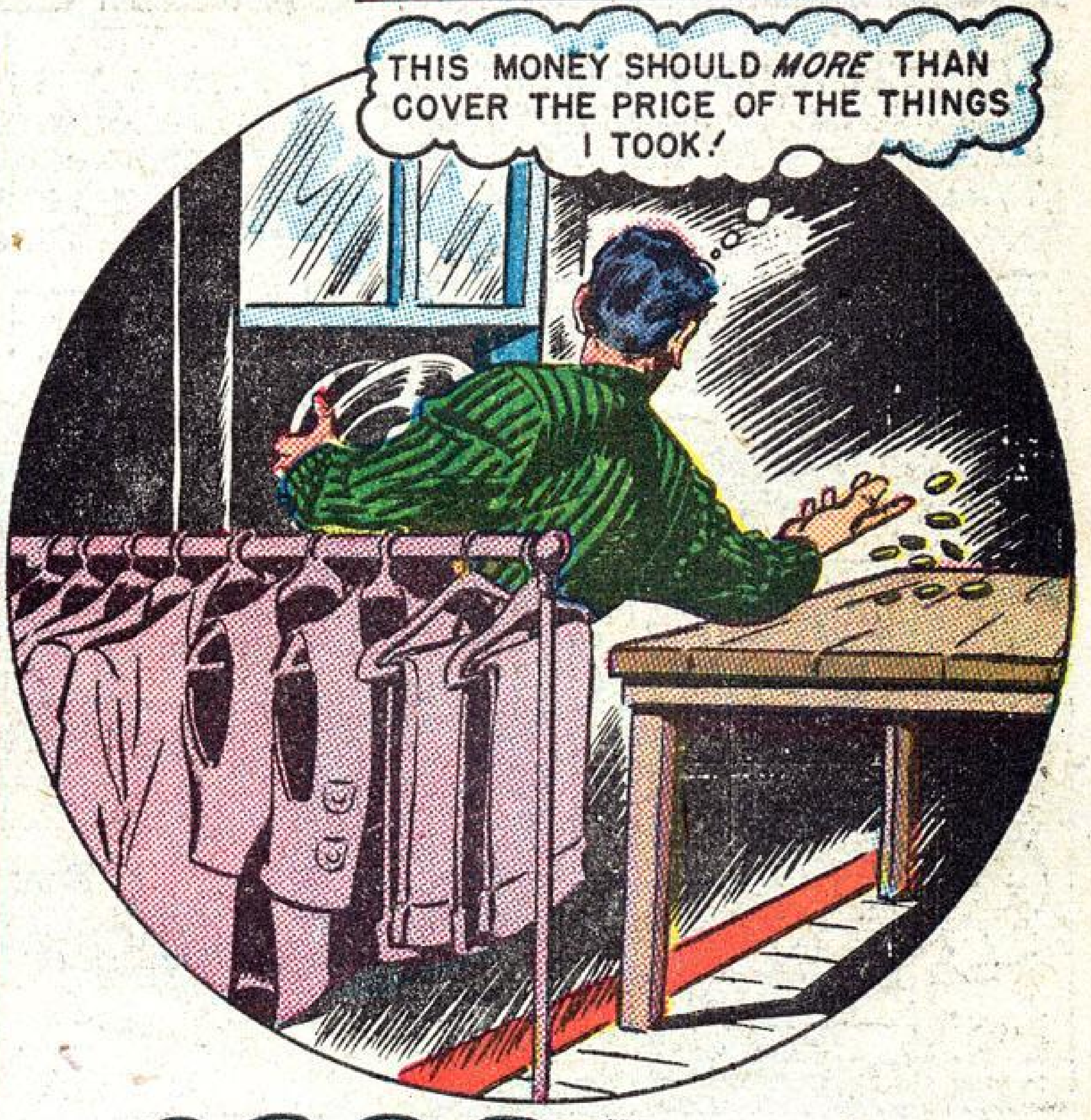

SUDDENLY, A STENTORIAN VOICE SHOUTS A NAME! THEN THE DULL, FLAT SOUNDS OF GUN-SHOTS HAVE THEIR VICIOUS SAY...
DAD! OH DAD!
BANG! BANG!
AND OUTSIDE IN THE UNPAVED STREET, JIM LATHROP LIES IN THE BLOODY DUST!
DON'T STAND THERE! DO SOMETHING!
ON MY HEAD, HIS WOUNDS... ON MY HANDS, HIS BLOOD!
HE'S BADLY WOUNDED, BUT HE'LL *LIVE*, MISS MARIE!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT IF HE DOES, YOU COWARD! HOW CAN A WORM LIKE YOU CALL HIMSELF A MAN? IF YOU HAD ACTED LIKE EVEN HALF A MAN, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED!
MARIE TAKES HER BULLET-RIDDLED FATHER BACK TO THE RANCH TO RECUPERATE, WHILE THROUGH THE HOURS OF THE NIGHT, A MAN SEARCHES HIS SOUL AND PRAYS FOR STRENGTH!
LATHROP WAS LUCKY! THE NEXT TIME WILL MEAN HIS DEATH! IT LIES WITHIN MY POWER TO STOP IT! BUT, IF I DO, I MUST GO BACK TO THE *GUN*... AND THE OLD *VICIOUS PATTERN* WILL *BEGIN AGAIN!*
WHAT SHALL I DO? IF I GO BACK TO THE GUN, MY YEARS OF STUDY WILL BE ALL FOR NAUGHT... I'D BECOME THE *CACTUS KID* AGAIN, WITH MY LIFE AT THE CALL OF EVERY BORDER GUN-HAWK! *I CAN'T! I MUSTN'T GO BACK!*
BUT THEN THE STILLNESS OF THE NIGHT IS CUT BY THE OMINOUS DRUMMING OF MANY HOOFS AS A GUN-HUNG CAVALCADE SWEEPS OUT OF TOWN!
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT'S *BLAST BURROWS* AN' THE SYNDICATE GUNNERS!
I HEARD 'EM IN THE SALOON! THEY'RE GONNA *STAMP OUT* AN' *BURN DOWN* THE LATHROP RANCH TONIGHT!
WHAT?

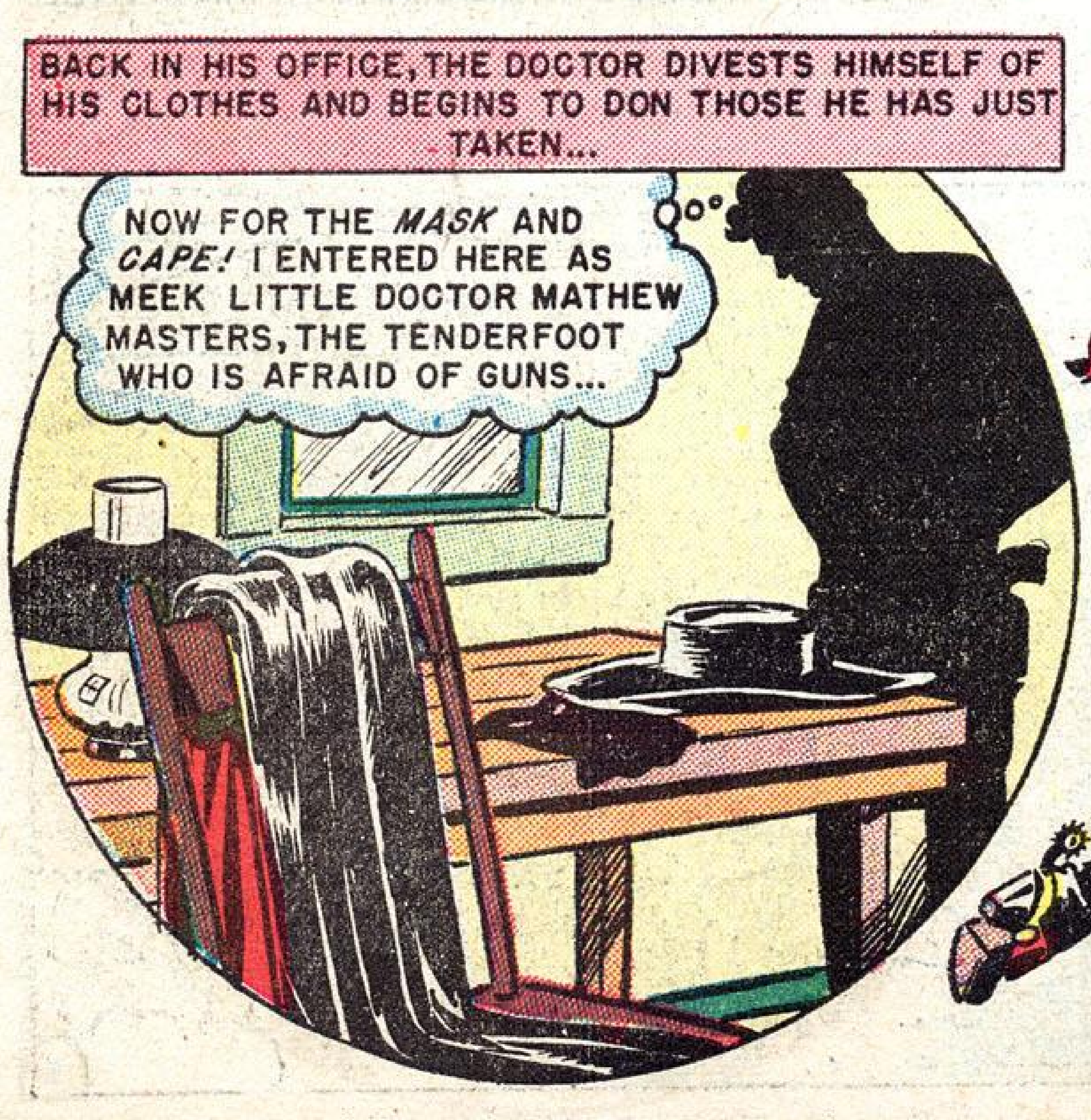

I *MUST* DO *SOMETHING!* I *MUST!* I CAN'T ALLOW THAT LOVELY GIRL TO BE WIPED OUT OR THROWN INTO THE CLUTCHES OF BLAST BURROWS!

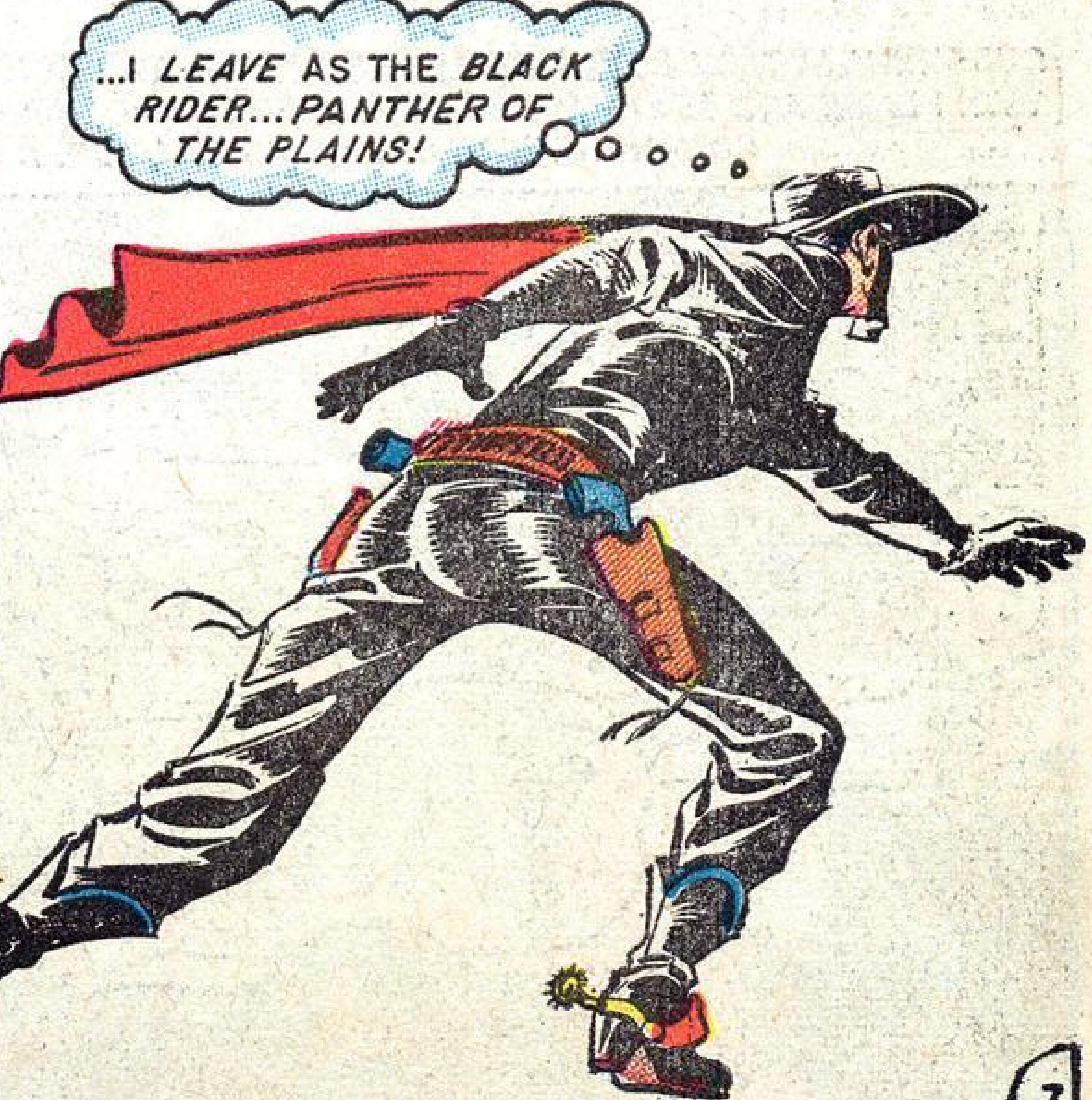

I HAVE IT! THE *ONLY WAY* TO KEEP MY IDENTITY AS DOCTOR MATHEW MASTERS AND *STILL* FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT!


YOUNG DOCTOR MASTERS STEALTHILY APPROACHES THE REAR OF LEADVILLE'S GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORE!
LUCK'S *WITH* ME! HERE'S AN *OPEN WINDOW!*

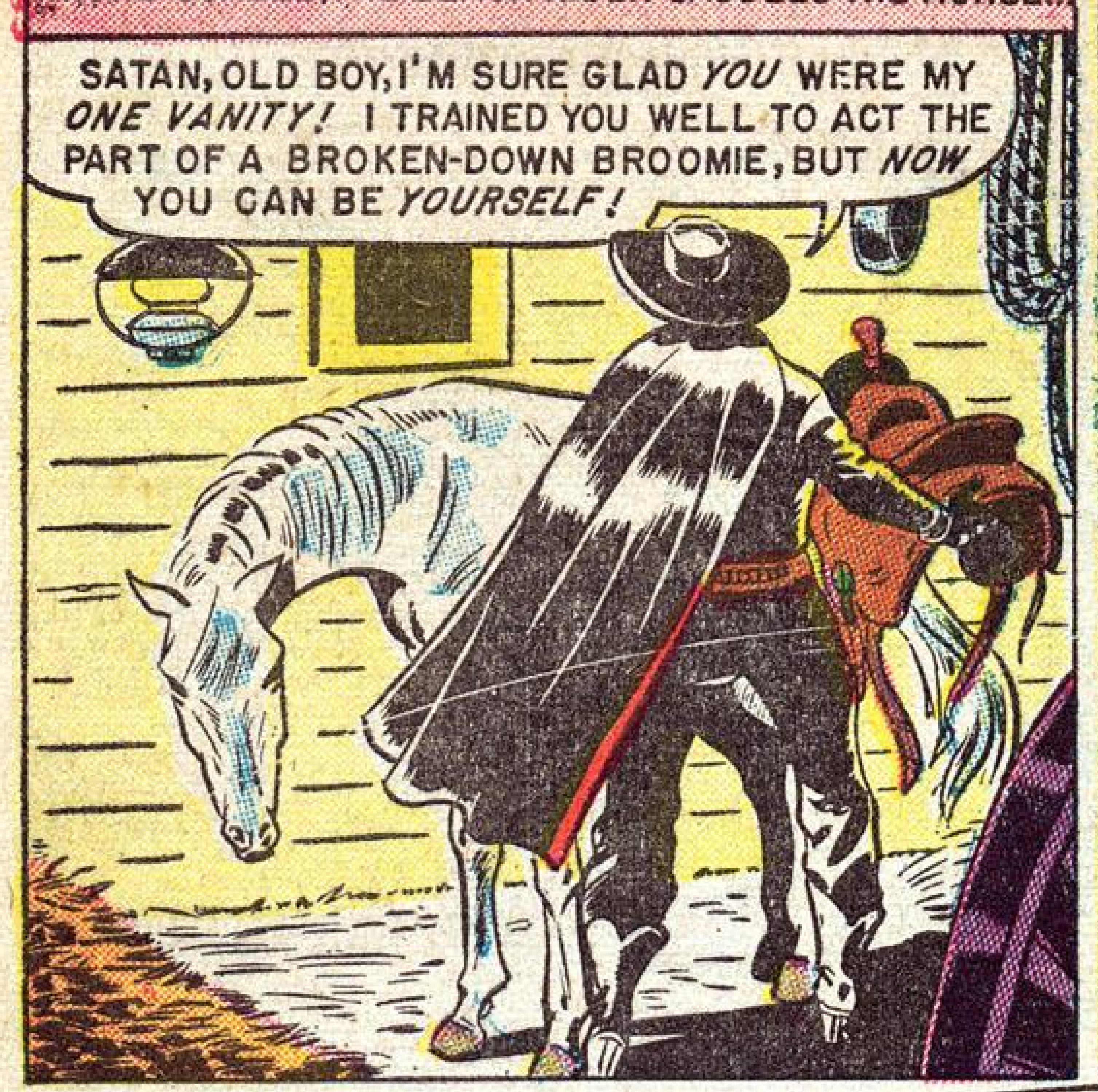

INSIDE THE DARKENED STORE, THE DOCTOR GATHERS TOGETHER A GROUP OF MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES!
THIS *BLACK CAPE* WILL DO... AND THIS *SOMBRERO!* NOW FOR SOME *BLACK CLOTH*, A *SHIRT* AND...


THIS MONEY SHOULD *MORE* THAN COVER THE PRICE OF THE THINGS I TOOK!

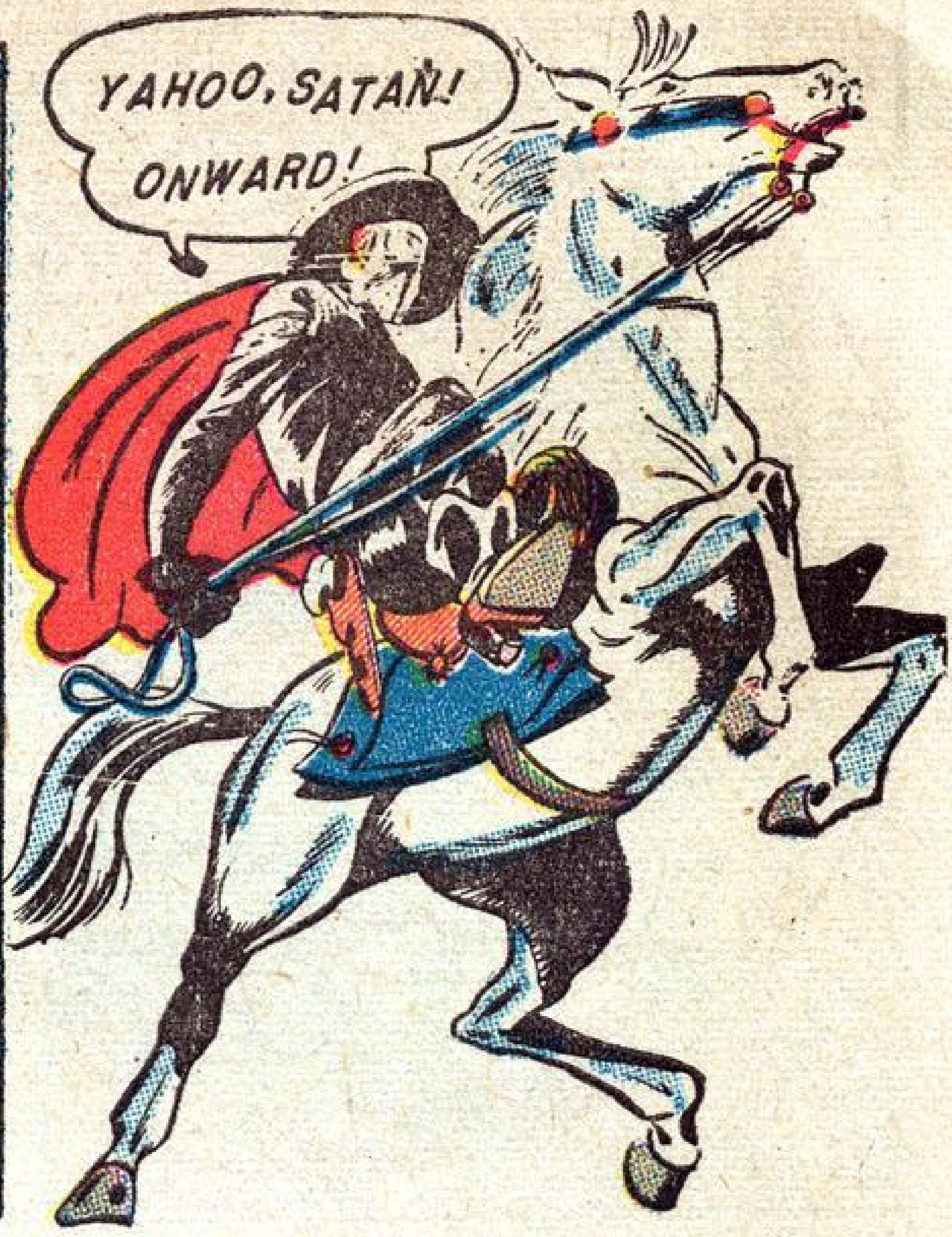

BACK IN HIS OFFICE, THE DOCTOR DIVESTS HIMSELF OF HIS CLOTHES AND BEGINS TO DON THOSE HE HAS JUST TAKEN...
NOW FOR THE *MASK* AND *CAPE!* I ENTERED HERE AS MEEK LITTLE DOCTOR MATHEW MASTERS, THE TENDERFOOT WHO IS AFRAID OF GUNS...


...I *LEAVE* AS THE *BLACK RIDER*... PANTHER OF *THE PLAINS!*

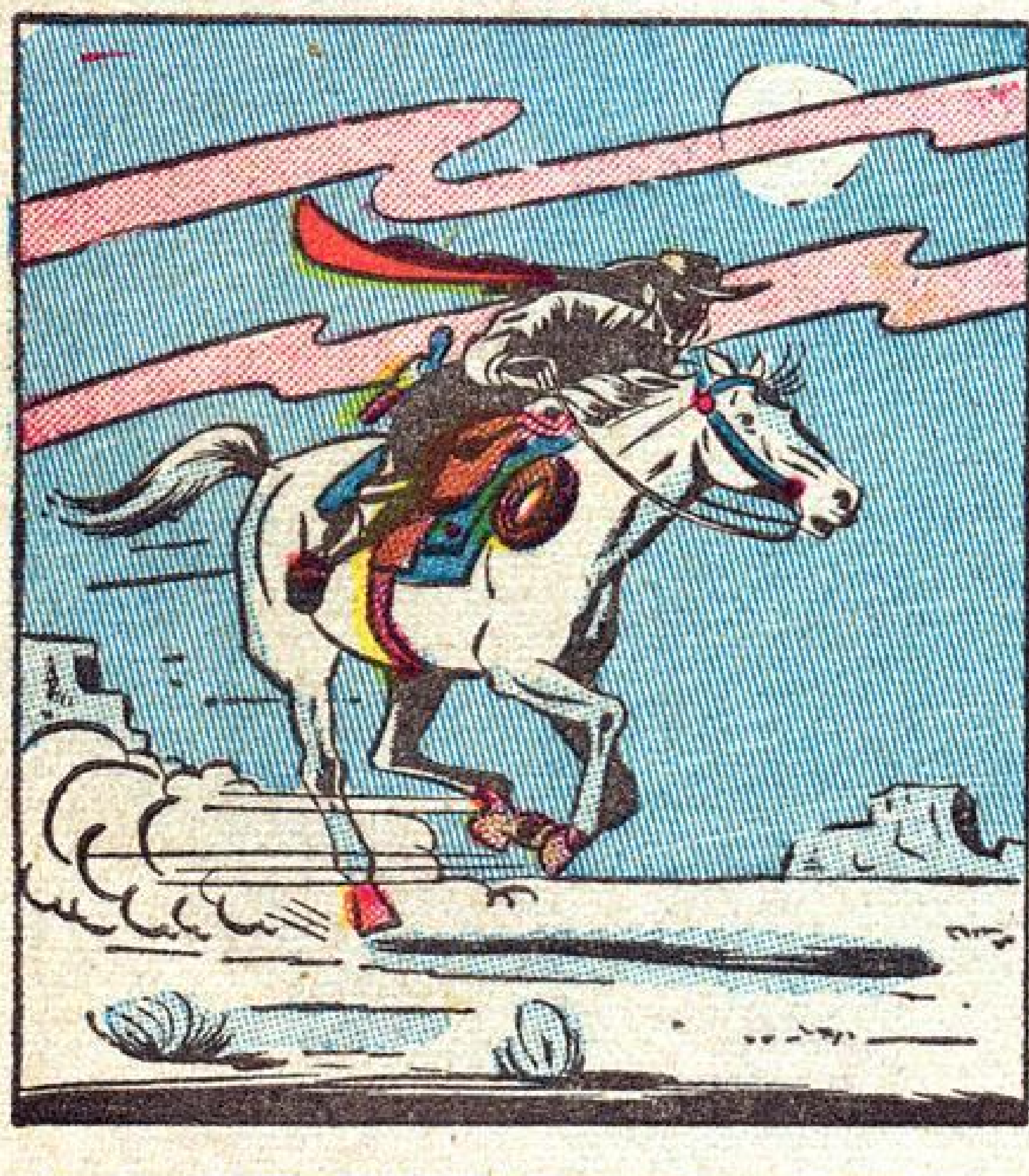
IN THE STABLE, THE BLACK RIDER SADDLES HIS HORSE...

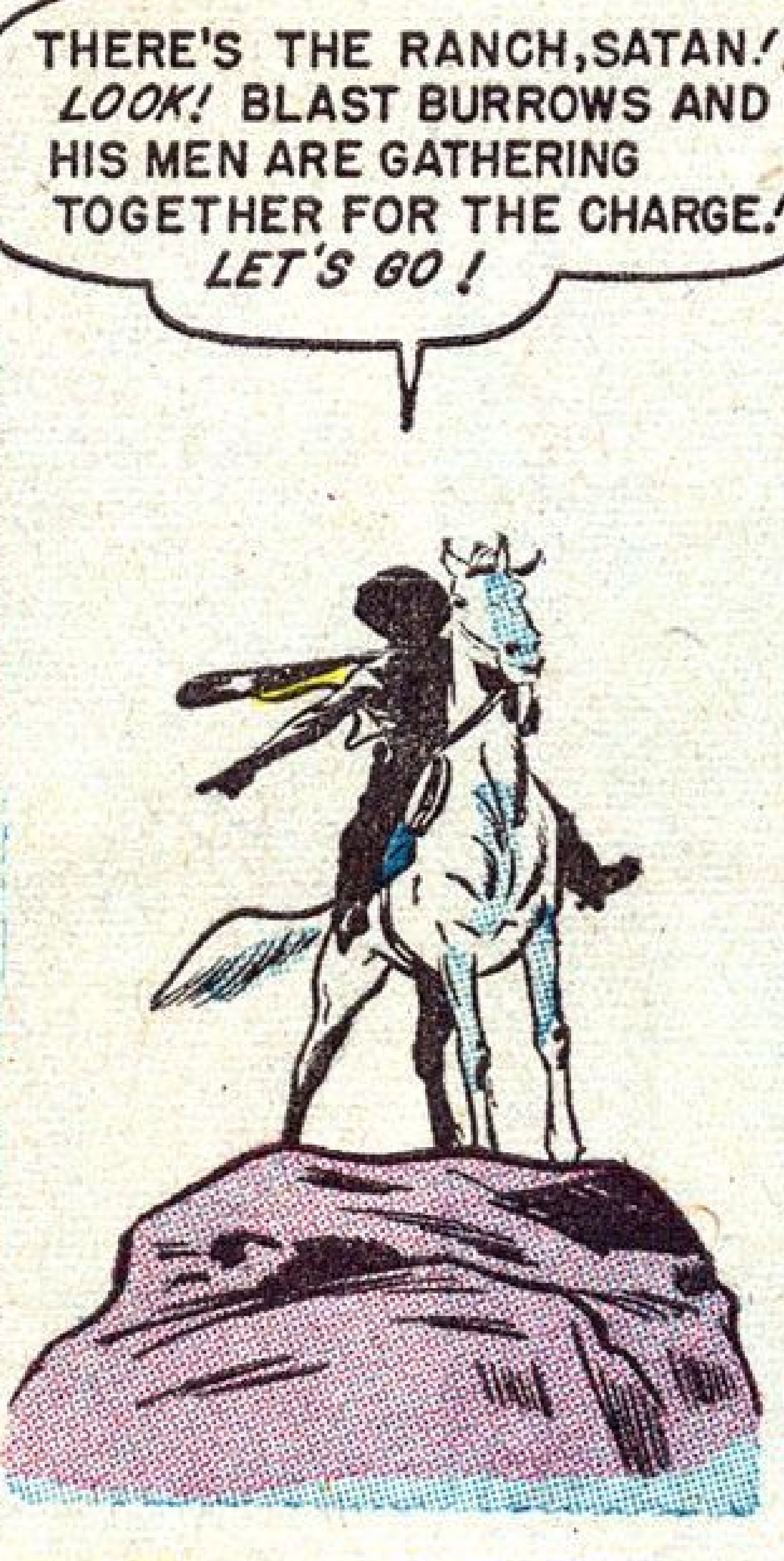

SATAN, OLD BOY, I'M SURE GLAD *YOU* WERE MY *ONE VANITY*! I TRAINED YOU WELL TO ACT THE PART OF A BROKEN-DOWN BROOMIE, BUT *NOW* YOU CAN BE *YOURSELF*!

AS THE BLACK RIDER MOUNTS, A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE HUGE HORSE! HIS HEAD LIFTS, HIS NECK ARCHES, HIS EYES SPARKLE AND HE STANDS REVEALED AS THE ACME OF A HORSEMAN'S DREAM--A THOROUGHBRED WITH FLAME IN HIS HEART AND THE WILD WIND AT HIS HEELS!

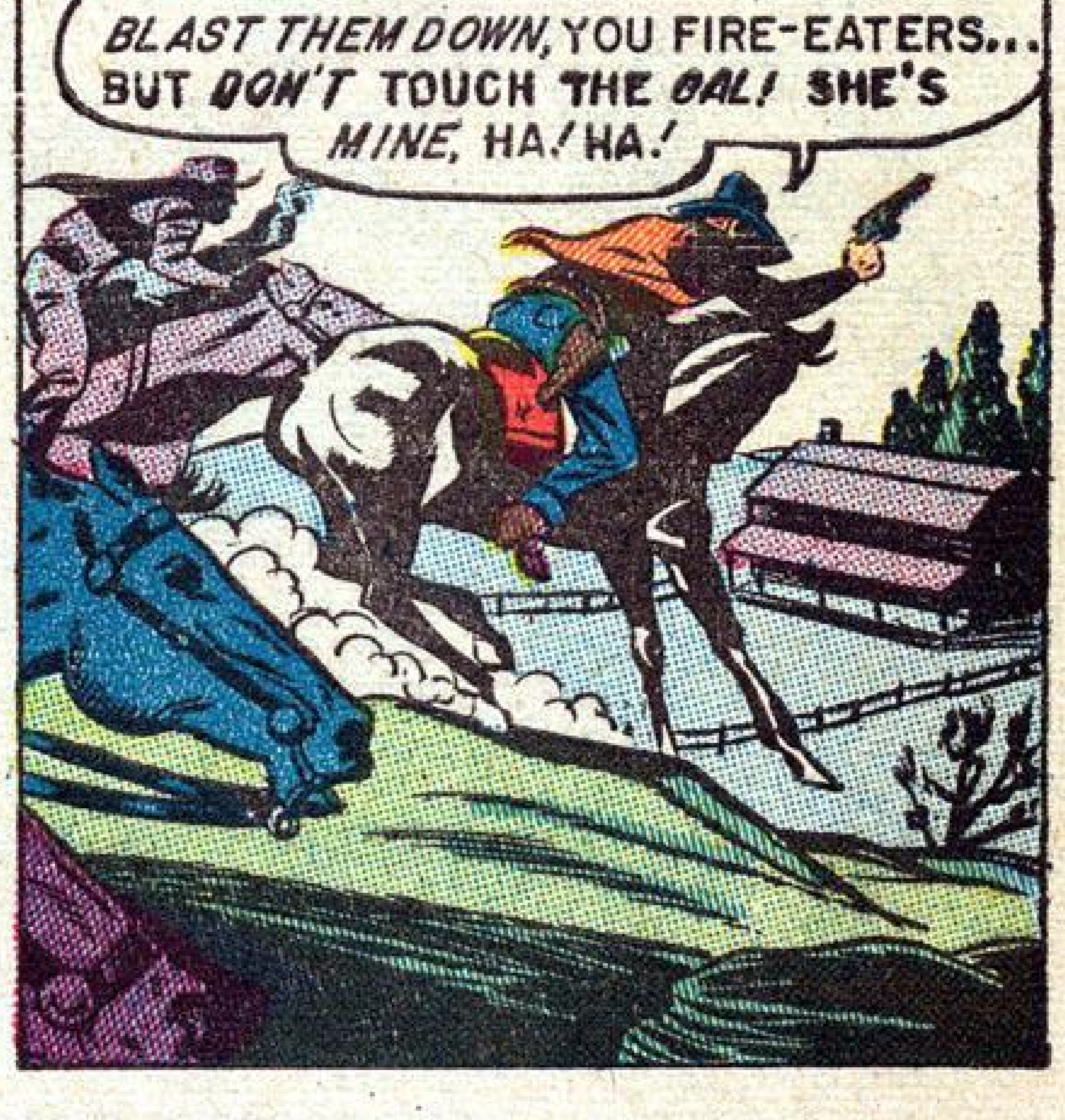

YAHOO, SATAN! ONWARD!

THROUGH THE NIGHT SPEEDS THE BLACK RIDER AND HIS MIGHTY MOUNT... SWEEPING TOWARD THE LATHROP RANCH, TOWARD MARIE, AND THE MENACE THAT ENGULFS HER!

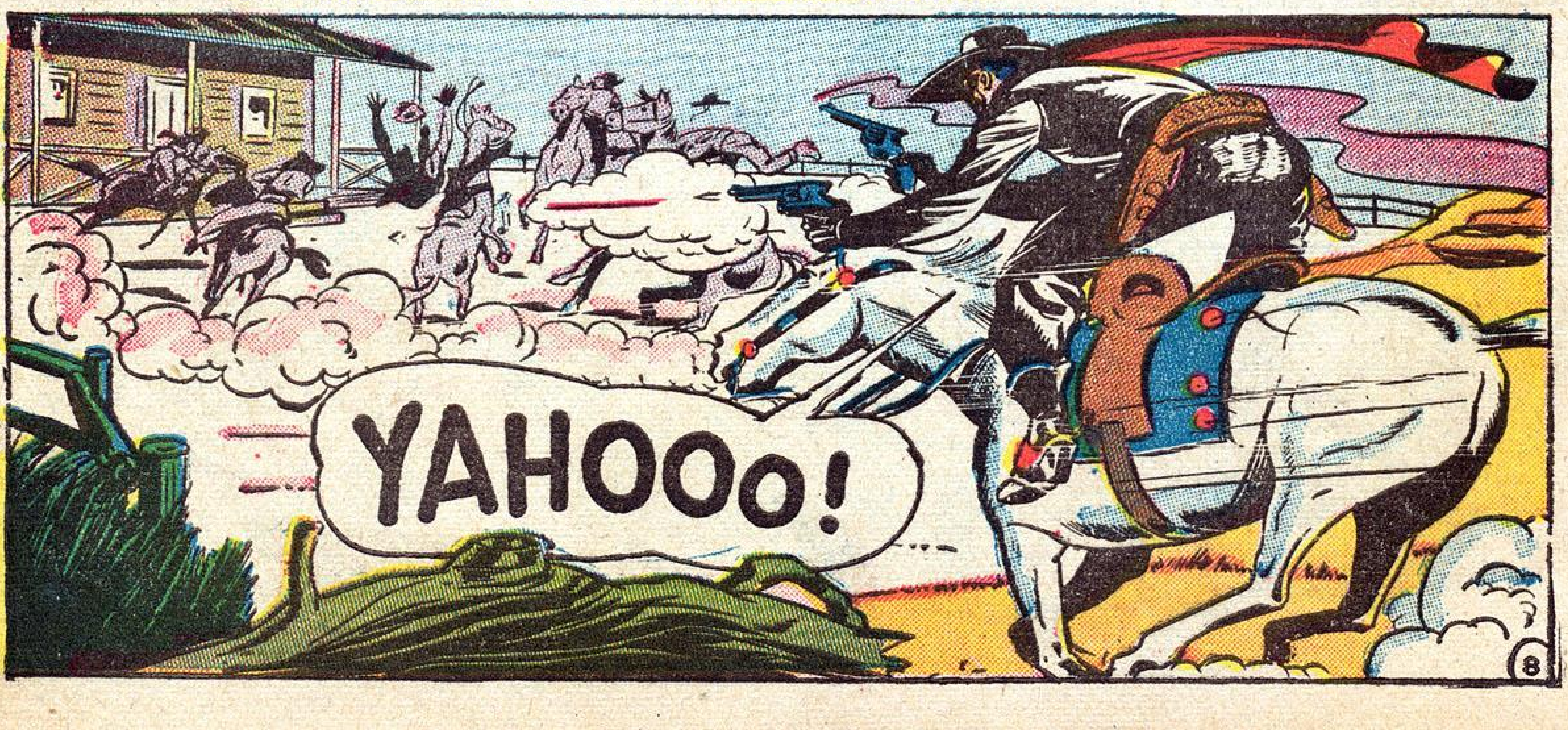


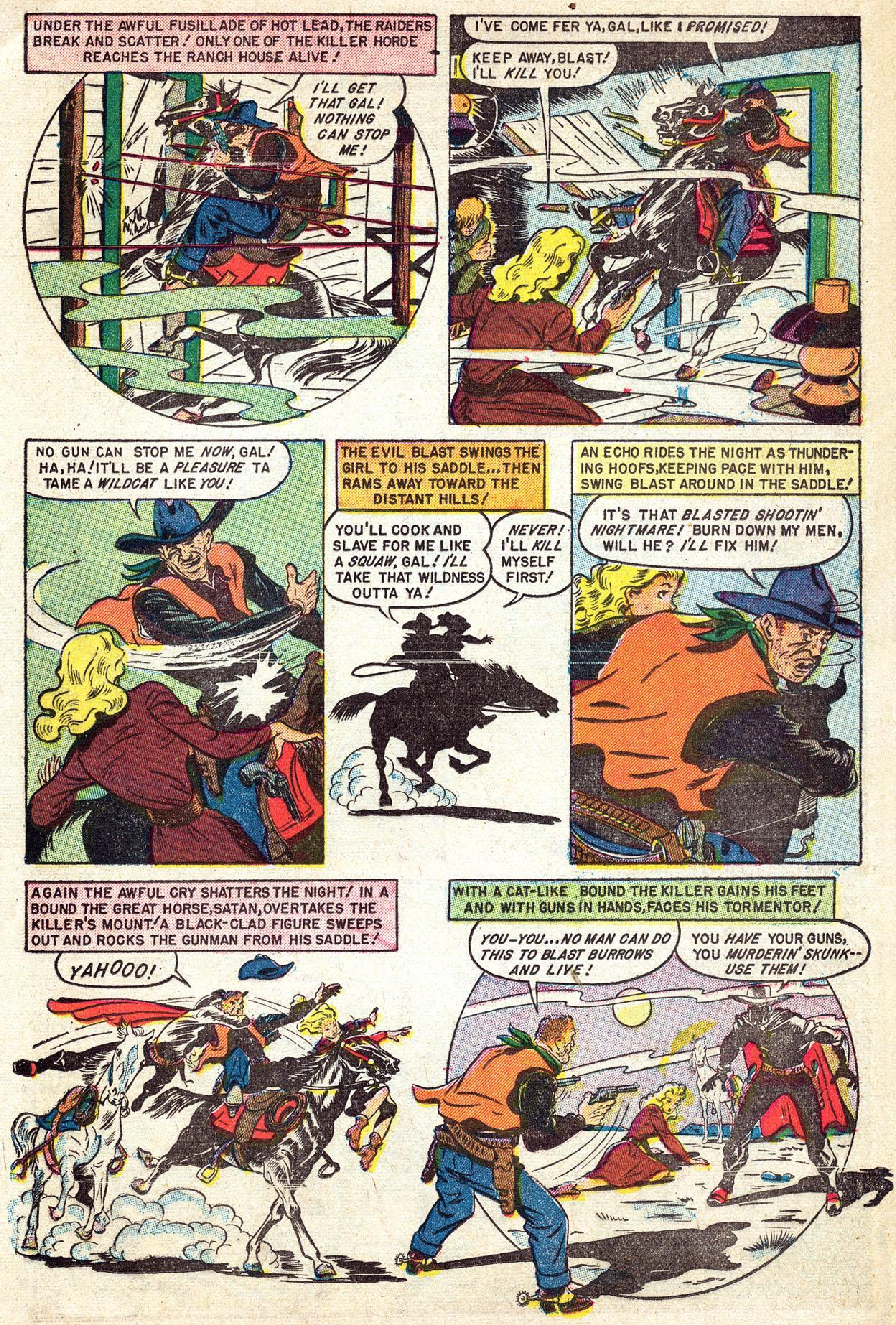

THERE'S THE RANCH, SATAN! *LOOK!* BLAST BURROWS AND HIS MEN ARE GATHERING TOGETHER FOR THE CHARGE! *LET'S GO!*

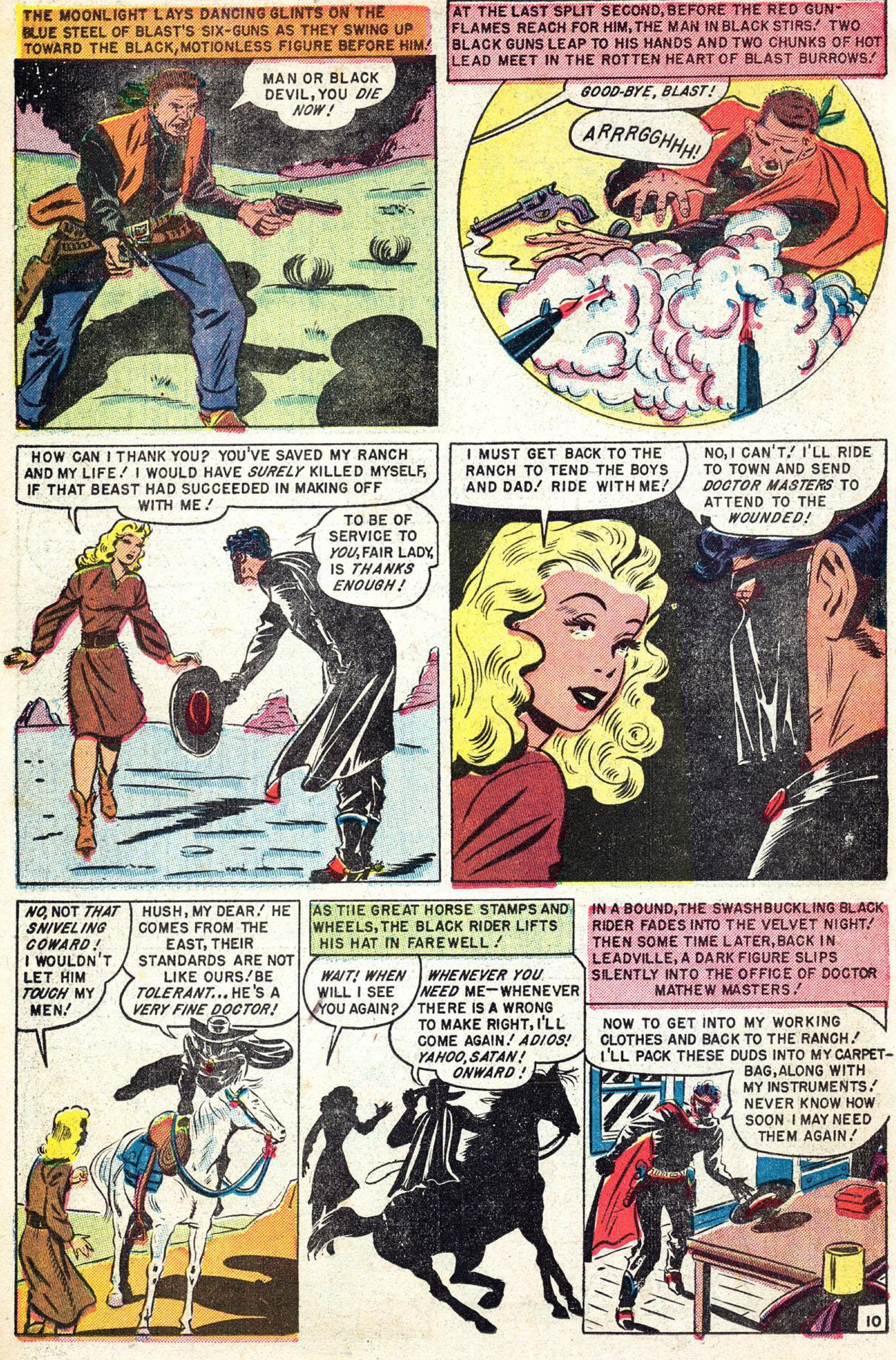
THE SYNDICATE KILLERS CHARGE FORWARD UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF BLAST BURROWS' SMOKING HOGLEGS, BENT ON SHOOTING DOWN WHAT OPPOSITION IS LEFT IN THE LITTLE RANCH HOUSE!

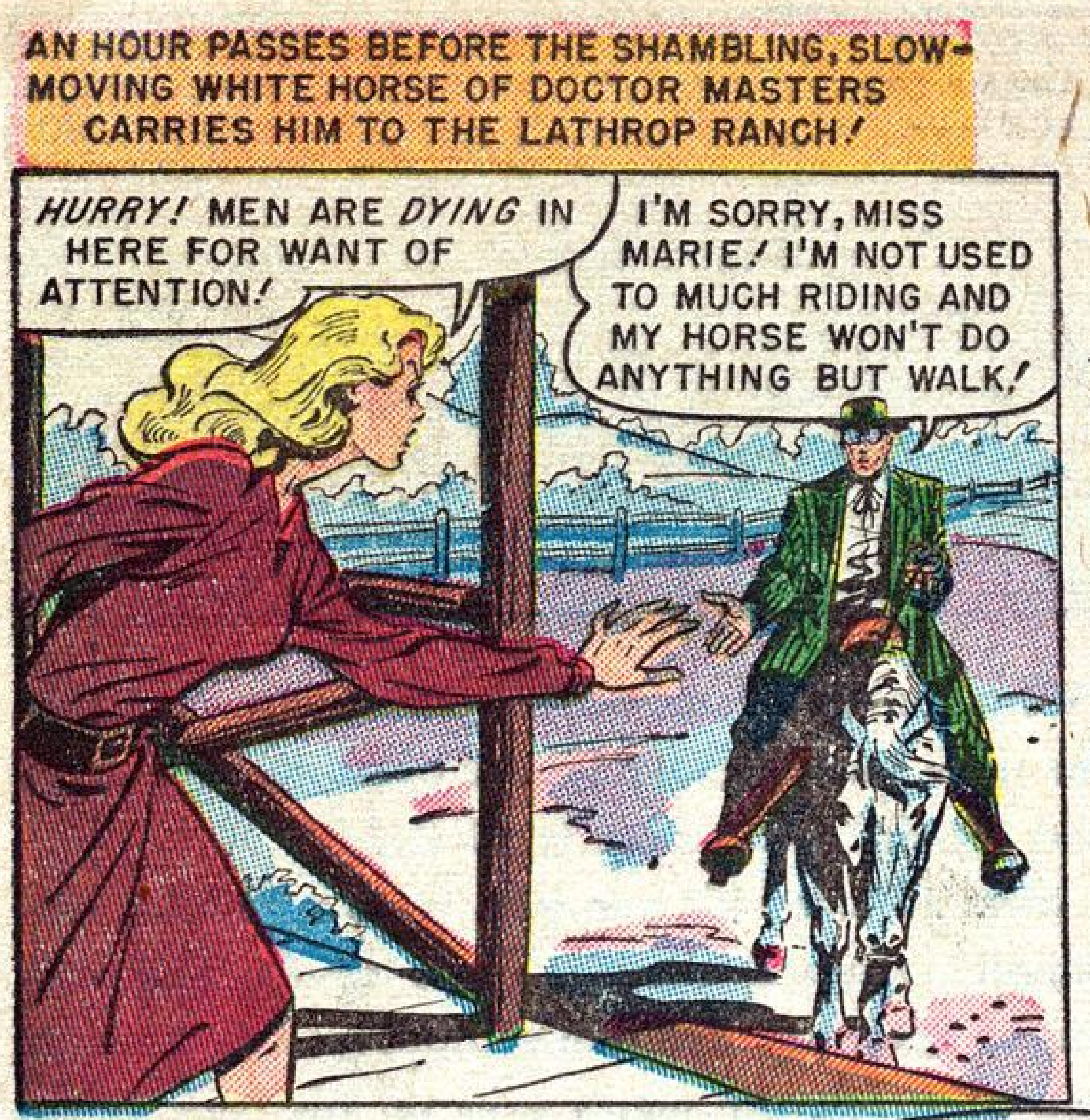

BLAST THEM DOWN, YOU FIRE-EATERS... BUT *DON'T* TOUCH THE *GAL*! SHE'S *MINE*, HA! HA!

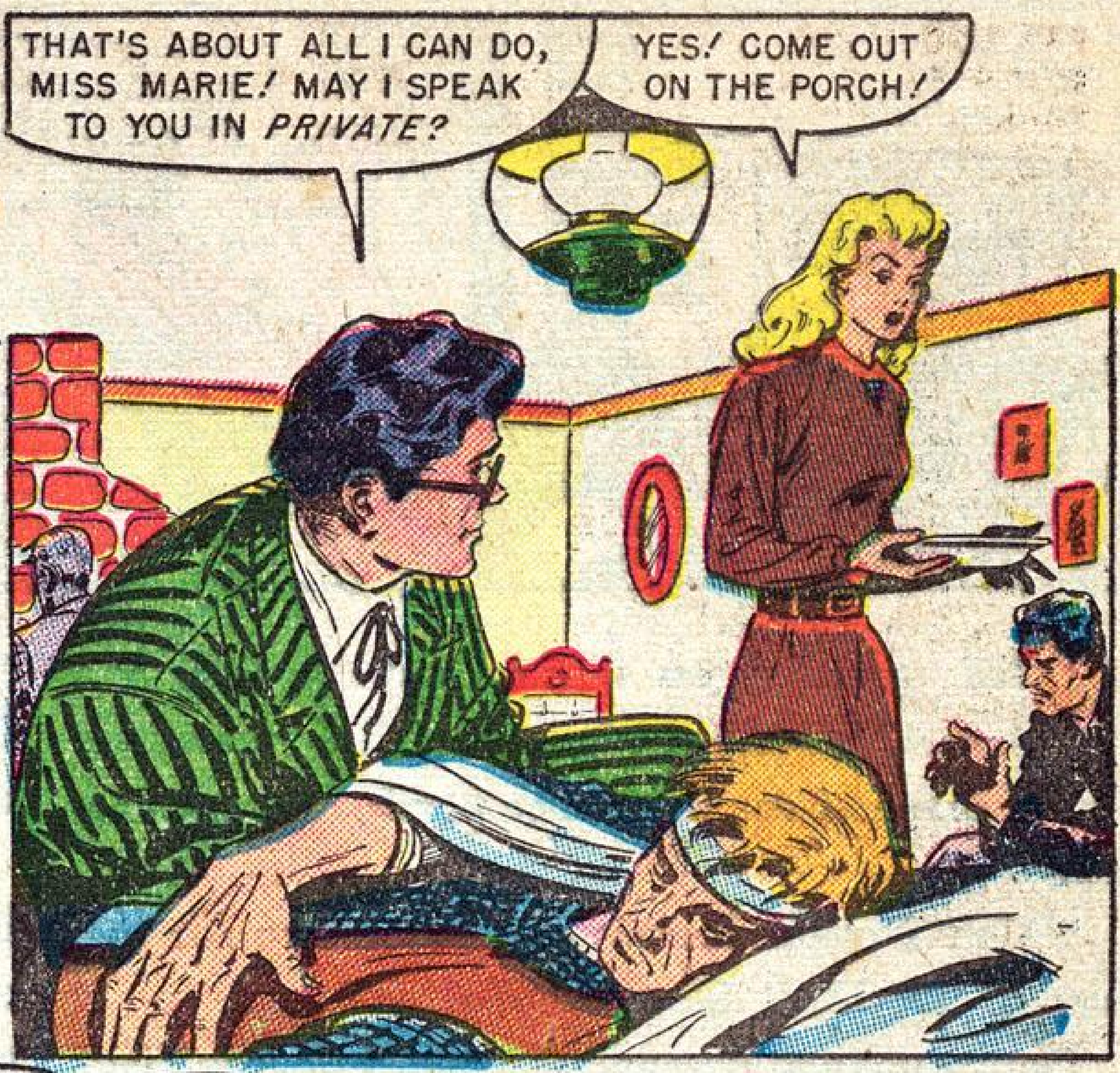
SUDDENLY, ATTACK COMES FROM THE REAR! AS THOUGH SPAWNED FROM THE NIGHT, A BLACK FIGURE LANCED WITH FLAME AND FEARSOME MENACE STRIKES THE LEADERS LIKE A DEMON OF DOOM! THE BLOOD-CURDLING COMANCHE WAR CRY RINGS OUT LIKE A PAEAN OF DEATH!

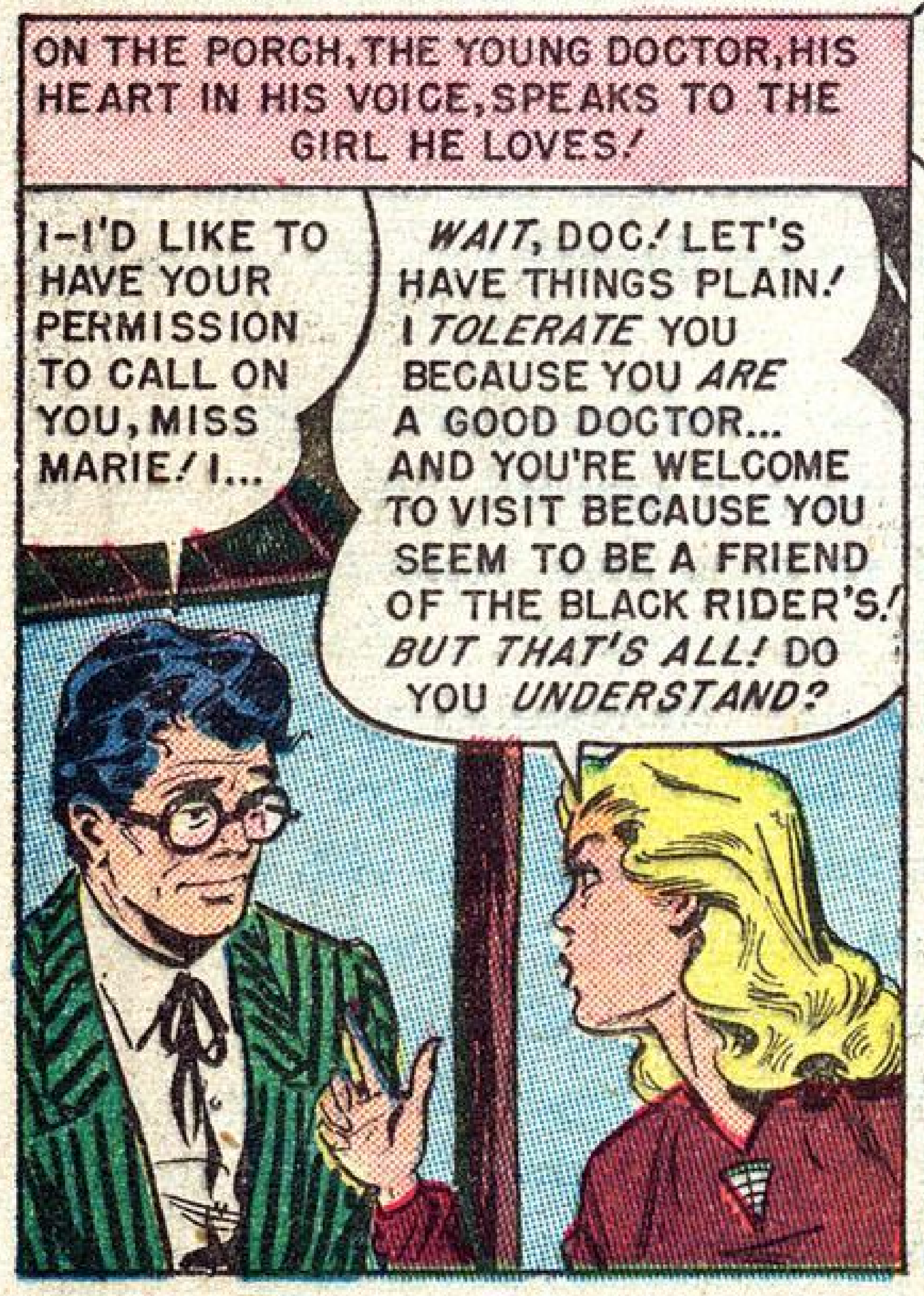


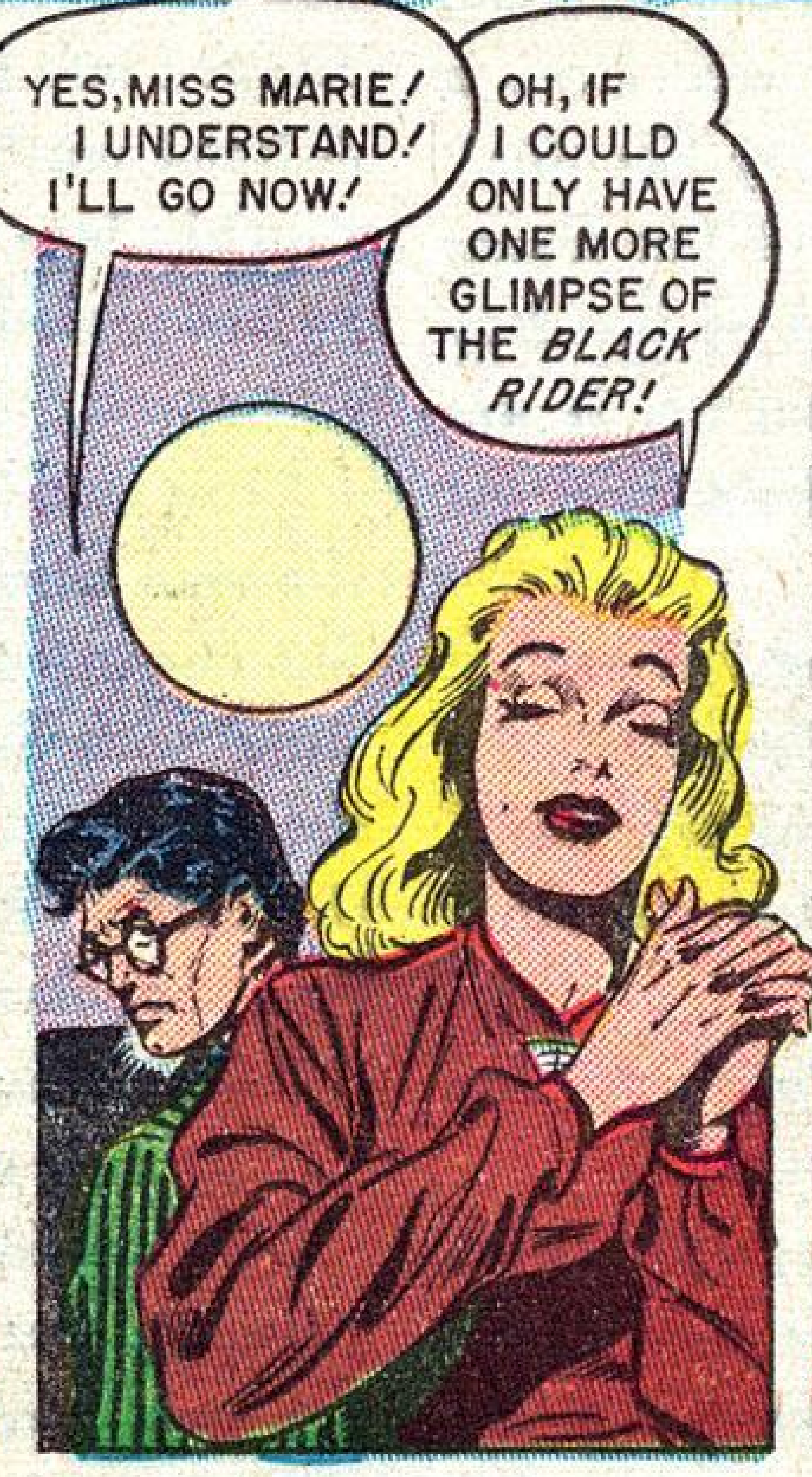

UNDER THE AWFUL FUSILLADE OF HOT LEAD, THE RAIDERS BREAK AND SCATTER! ONLY ONE OF THE KILLER HORDE REACHES THE RANCH HOUSE ALIVE!
I'LL GET THAT GAL! NOTHING CAN STOP ME!
I'VE COME FER YA, GAL, LIKE I *PROMISED!*
KEEP AWAY, BLAST! I'LL *KILL* YOU!
NO GUN CAN STOP ME *NOW*, GAL! HA, HA! IT'LL BE A *PLEASURE* TA TAME A *WILDCAT* LIKE *YOU!*
THE EVIL BLAST SWINGS THE GIRL TO HIS SADDLE... THEN RAMS AWAY TOWARD THE DISTANT HILLS!
YOU'LL COOK AND SLAVE FOR ME LIKE A *SQUAW*, GAL! *I'LL* TAKE THAT WILDNESS OUTTA YA!
NEVER! I'LL *KILL* MYSELF FIRST!
AN ECHO RIDES THE NIGHT AS THUNDERING HOOFS, KEEPING PACE WITH HIM, SWING BLAST AROUND IN THE SADDLE!
IT'S THAT *BLASTED SHOOTIN' NIGHTMARE!* BURN DOWN MY MEN, WILL HE? *I'LL* FIX HIM!
AGAIN THE AWFUL CRY SHATTERS THE NIGHT! IN A BOUND THE GREAT HORSE, SATAN, OVERTAKES THE KILLER'S MOUNT! A BLACK-CLAD FIGURE SWEEPS OUT AND ROCKS THE GUNMAN FROM HIS SADDLE!
YAHOOO!
WITH A CAT-LIKE BOUND THE KILLER GAINS HIS FEET AND WITH GUNS IN HANDS, FACES HIS TORMENTOR!
YOU—YOU... NO MAN CAN DO THIS TO BLAST BURROWS AND LIVE!
YOU *HAVE* YOUR GUNS, YOU *MURDERIN' SKUNK*-- USE THEM!

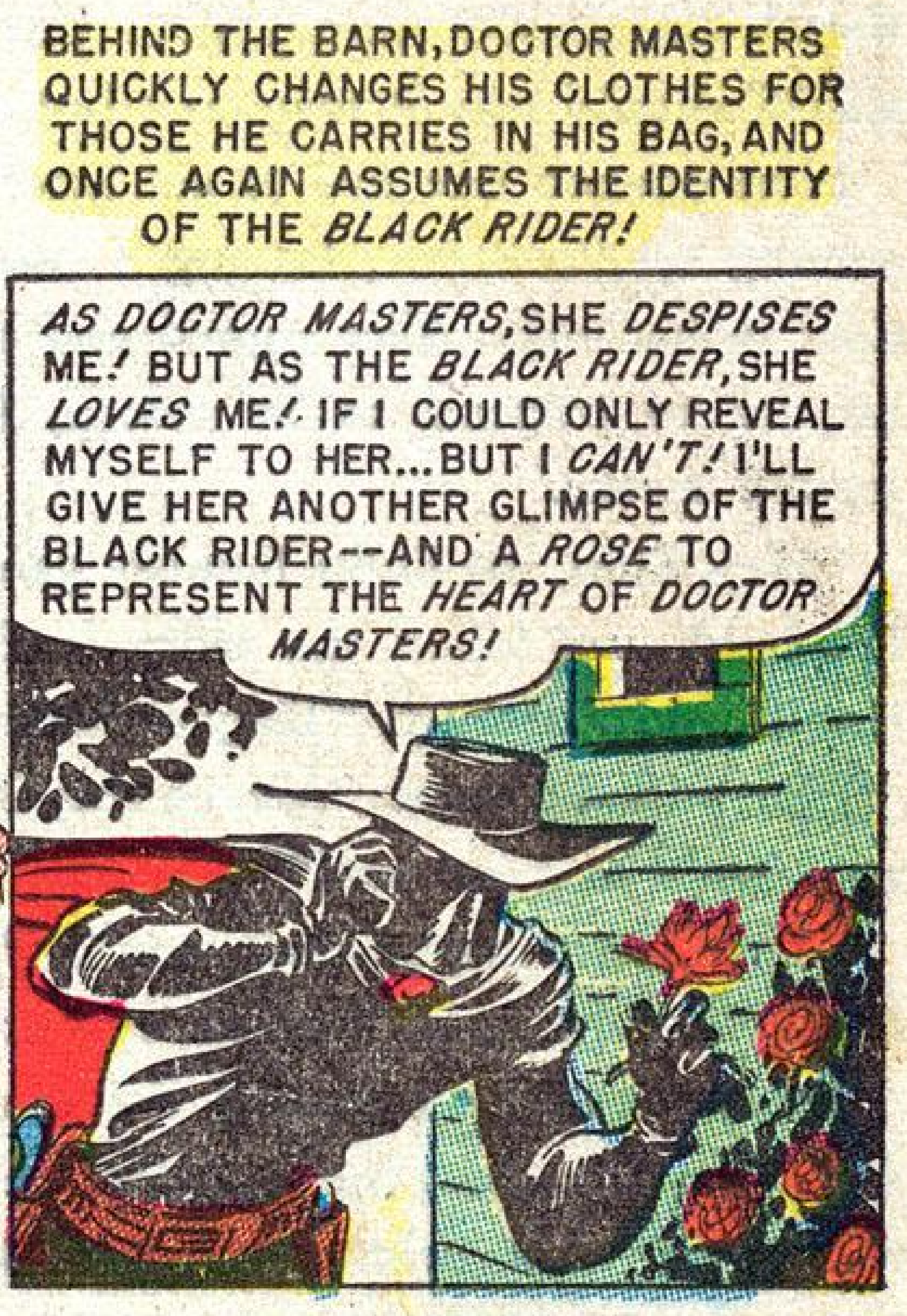

THE MOONLIGHT LAYS DANCING GLINTS ON THE BLUE STEEL OF BLAST'S SIX-GUNS AS THEY SWING UP TOWARD THE BLACK, MOTIONLESS FIGURE BEFORE HIM!
MAN OR BLACK DEVIL, YOU *DIE NOW!*
AT THE LAST SPLIT SECOND, BEFORE THE RED GUN-FLAMES REACH FOR HIM, THE MAN IN BLACK STIRS! TWO BLACK GUNS LEAP TO HIS HANDS AND TWO CHUNKS OF HOT LEAD MEET IN THE ROTTEN HEART OF BLAST BURROWS!
GOOD-BYE, BLAST!
ARRRGGHHH!
HOW CAN I THANK YOU? YOU'VE SAVED MY RANCH AND MY LIFE! I WOULD HAVE *SURELY* KILLED MYSELF, IF THAT BEAST HAD SUCCEEDED IN MAKING OFF WITH ME!
TO BE OF SERVICE TO *YOU*, FAIR LADY, IS *THANKS ENOUGH!*
I MUST GET BACK TO THE RANCH TO TEND THE BOYS AND DAD! RIDE WITH ME!
NO, I CAN'T! I'LL RIDE TO TOWN AND SEND *DOCTOR MASTERS* TO ATTEND TO THE *WOUNDED!*
NO, NOT *THAT SNIVELING COWARD!* I WOULDN'T LET HIM *TOUCH* MY MEN!
HUSH, MY DEAR! HE COMES FROM THE EAST, THEIR STANDARDS ARE NOT LIKE OURS! BE *TOLERANT*... HE'S A *VERY FINE DOCTOR!*
AS THE GREAT HORSE STAMPS AND WHEELS, THE BLACK RIDER LIFTS HIS HAT IN FAREWELL!
WAIT! WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?
WHENEVER YOU NEED ME—WHENEVER THERE IS A WRONG TO MAKE RIGHT, I'LL COME AGAIN! *ADIOS! YAHOO, SATAN! ONWARD!*
IN A BOUND, THE SWASHBUCKLING BLACK RIDER FADES INTO THE VELVET NIGHT! THEN SOME TIME LATER, BACK IN LEADVILLE, A DARK FIGURE SLIPS SILENTLY INTO THE OFFICE OF DOCTOR MATHEW MASTERS!
NOW TO GET INTO MY WORKING CLOTHES AND BACK TO THE RANCH! I'LL PACK THESE DUDS INTO MY CARPET-BAG, ALONG WITH MY INSTRUMENTS! NEVER KNOW HOW SOON I MAY NEED THEM AGAIN!

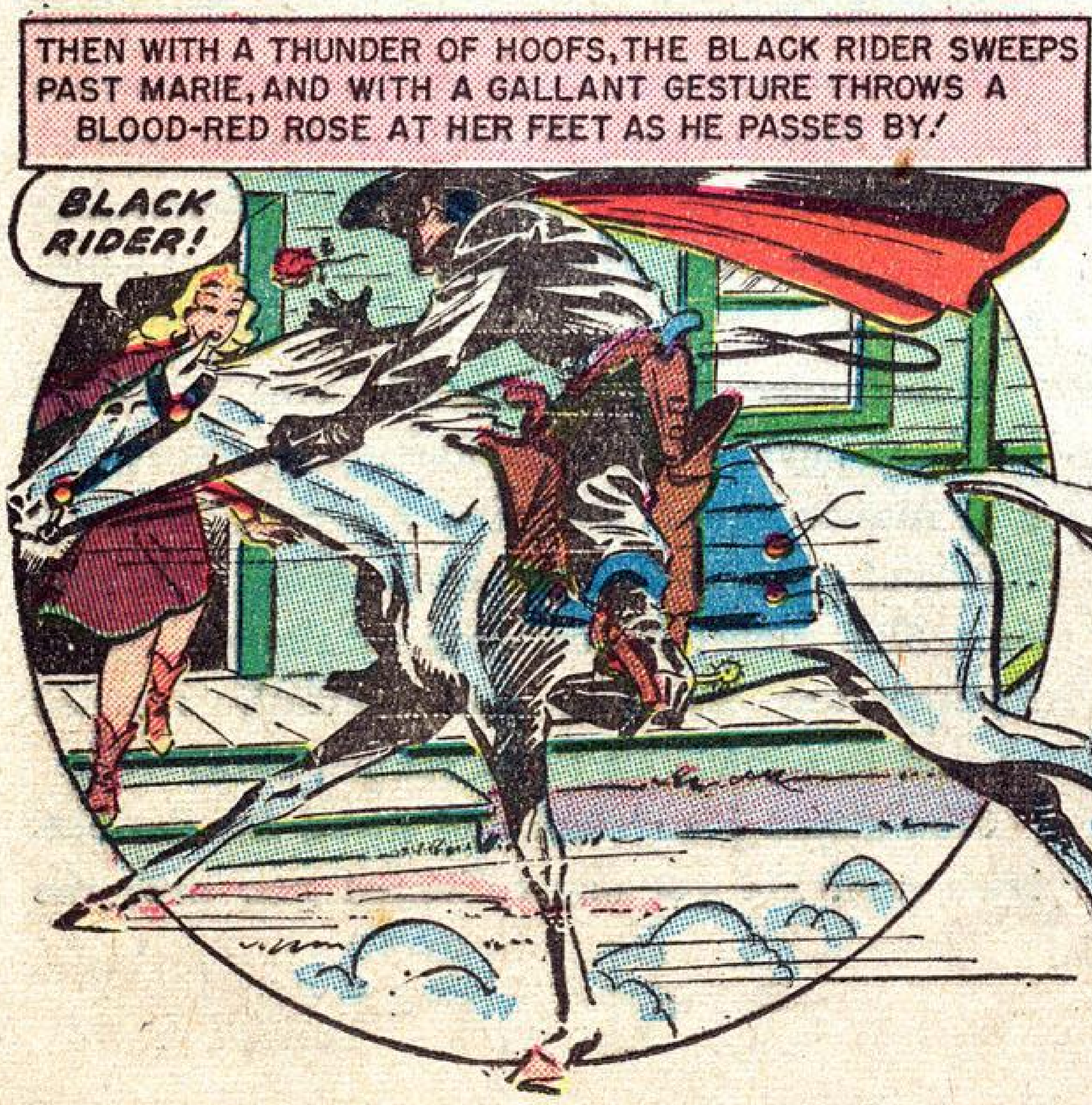

AN HOUR PASSES BEFORE THE SHAMBLING, SLOW-MOVING WHITE HORSE OF DOCTOR MASTERS CARRIES HIM TO THE LATHROP RANCH!
HURRY! MEN ARE *DYING* IN HERE FOR WANT OF ATTENTION!
I'M SORRY, MISS MARIE! I'M NOT USED TO MUCH RIDING AND MY HORSE WON'T DO ANYTHING BUT WALK!

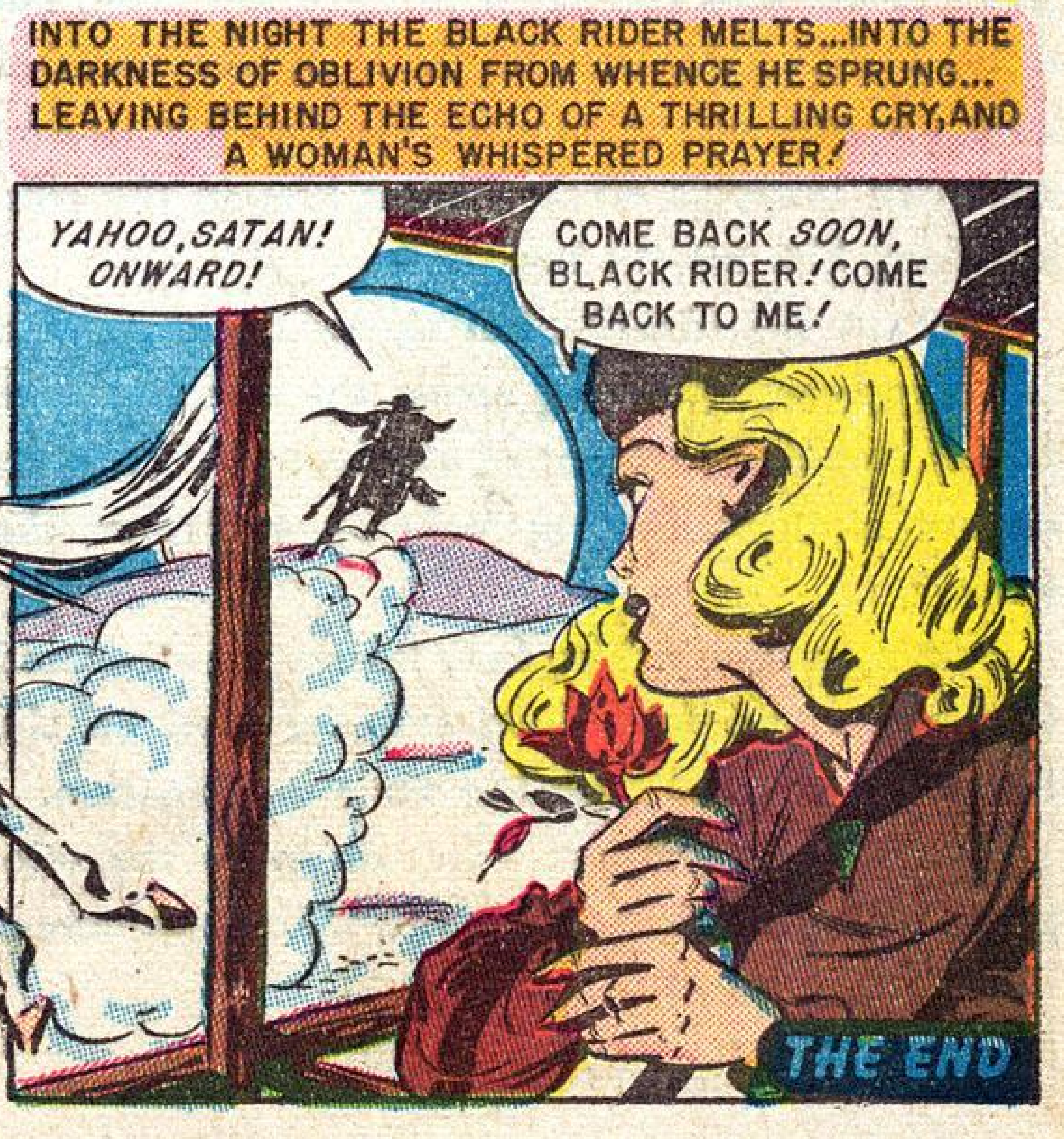

THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN DO, MISS MARIE! MAY I SPEAK TO YOU IN *PRIVATE?*
YES! COME OUT ON THE PORCH!

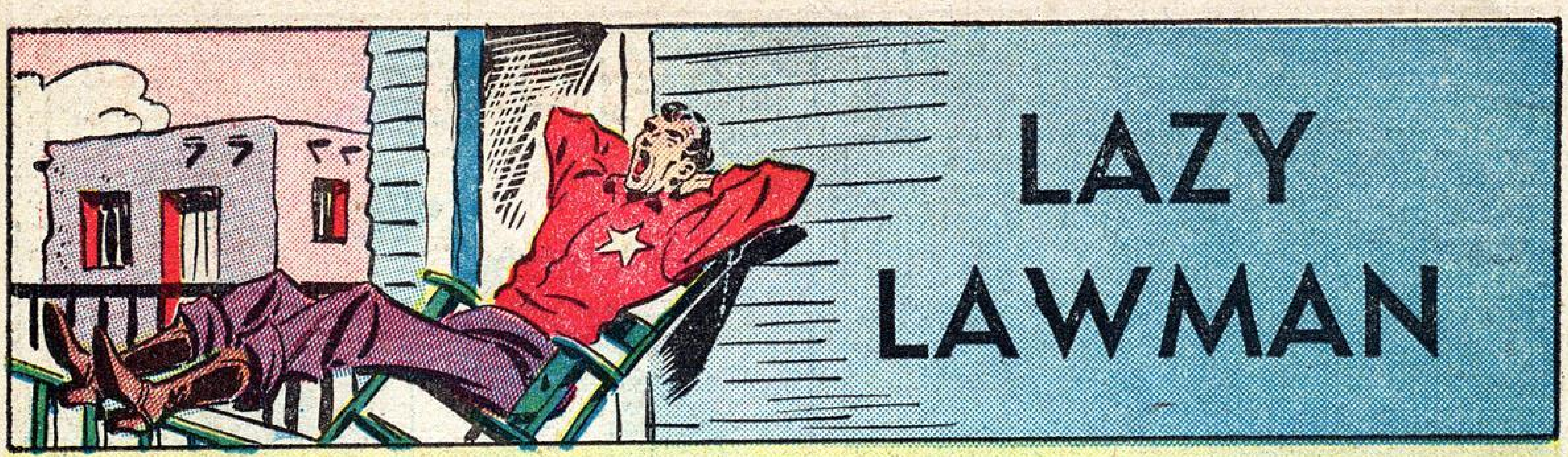

ON THE PORCH, THE YOUNG DOCTOR, HIS HEART IN HIS VOICE, SPEAKS TO THE GIRL HE LOVES!
I-I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO CALL ON YOU, MISS MARIE! I...
WAIT, DOC! LET'S HAVE THINGS PLAIN! I *TOLERATE* YOU BECAUSE YOU *ARE* A GOOD DOCTOR... AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO VISIT BECAUSE YOU SEEM TO BE A FRIEND OF THE BLACK RIDER'S! *BUT THAT'S ALL!* DO YOU *UNDERSTAND?*


YES, MISS MARIE! I UNDERSTAND! I'LL GO NOW!
OH, IF I COULD ONLY HAVE ONE MORE GLIMPSE OF THE *BLACK RIDER!*


BEHIND THE BARN, DOCTOR MASTERS QUICKLY CHANGES HIS CLOTHES FOR THOSE HE CARRIES IN HIS BAG, AND ONCE AGAIN ASSUMES THE IDENTITY OF THE *BLACK RIDER!*
AS DOCTOR MASTERS, SHE *DESPISES* ME! BUT AS THE *BLACK RIDER*, SHE *LOVES* ME! IF I COULD ONLY REVEAL MYSELF TO HER... BUT I *CAN'T!* I'LL GIVE HER ANOTHER GLIMPSE OF THE BLACK RIDER--AND A *ROSE* TO REPRESENT THE *HEART OF DOCTOR MASTERS!*


THEN WITH A THUNDER OF HOOFS, THE BLACK RIDER SWEEPS PAST MARIE, AND WITH A GALLANT GESTURE THROWS A BLOOD-RED ROSE AT HER FEET AS HE PASSES BY!
BLACK RIDER!


INTO THE NIGHT THE BLACK RIDER MELTS... INTO THE DARKNESS OF OBLIVION FROM WHENCE HE SPRUNG... LEAVING BEHIND THE ECHO OF A THRILLING CRY, AND A WOMAN'S WHISPERED PRAYER!
YAHOO, SATAN! ONWARD!
COME BACK *SOON*, BLACK RIDER! COME BACK TO ME!
THE END



LAZY LAWMAN

SLIM sprawled on a box and yawned. He glanced at Nappy, who occupied the next box in the shade of the post office porch, and grinned lazily.

"Wish I could just sit and relax here for the rest o' my life," Slim drawled.

Nappy nodded dreamily. "Yeah, I do, too. Say, there's the sheriff runnin' over this way. Even a sheriff should take it easy on a hot day like this."

Slim opened one eye to see Sheriff Pat Evans coming up the street, leaving a trail of powdery dust in his wake. Slim sighed and sat up. It was no use to pretend to be asleep, he'd just get jostled awake.

"Hey, Slim, the Duke Ramsey gang just robbed the bank and killed the teller in Sonoma!" the sheriff said excitedly. "They're headin' this way!"

Slim stifled a yawn. "Maybe they'll go the other way. Let's wait an' see!"

"Yeah, and maybe they won't! Polish up that deputy's badge, and keep an eye open!"

Evans trotted on toward the telegraph office, and Slim slouched back against the wall again, tilting his wide brimmed hat to keep out the glare of the sun. He hated to work any time, but a hot day like this one, he thought, was intended only for rest and relaxation. He was just dozing off when Nappy's elbow caught him in the ribs, knocking him off the box.

"What's the idea?" Slim squawked, then shut up. Nappy was pointing across the street at four horses standing in front of the bank. A rider sat on one of them, darting looks up and down the street.

Slim rose slowly. The four horses were covered with sweat and trail dust, and the man on the horse was covered with the same combination.

Slim nudged Nappy. "Get down to the telegraph office, and find the sheriff," Slim murmured. "Why couldn't them fellers pick a nice cool day for their shenanigans? Now I gotta go over there and see that everything is all right!"

Slim adjusted his gun belt, then, mumbling unhappily, stepped into the dusty street. The man on the horse watched him without making a move, and Slim felt the man's eyes on his back as he stepped into the comparative coolness of the bank. A hand reached out, and Slim felt a gun shoved roughly into his side. Slim put his hands up as he was placed against the wall with the tellers and customers.

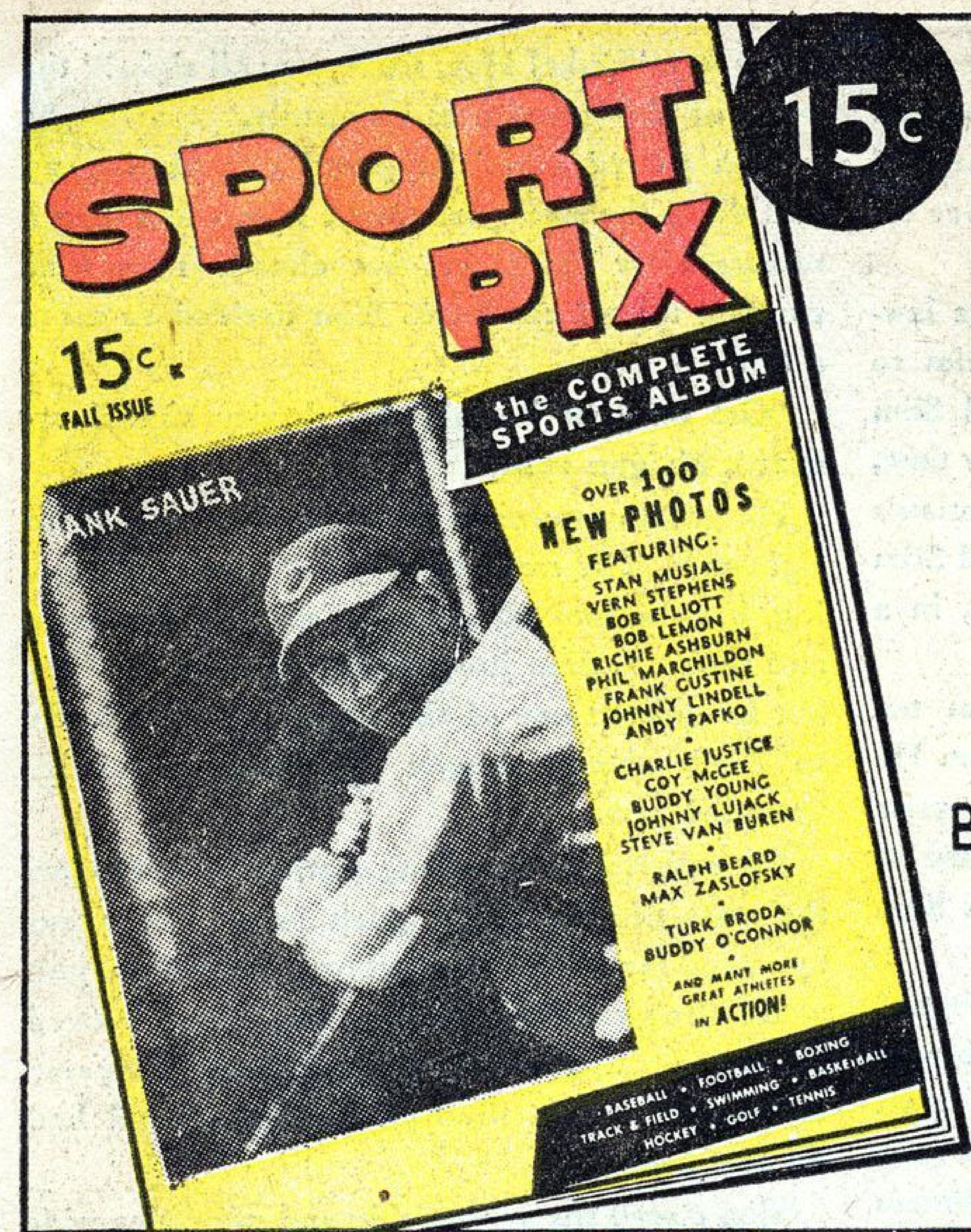
"Just stand there and keep yore mouths shut!" the man with the gun growled. "A guy down in Sonoma tried to be a hero yesterday, and he's sittin' with the angels today! . . . Come on back there, hurry it up!" he shouted to the back of the bank. "We haven't got all day! That posse from Sonoma will be catchin' up with us!"

"Any minute now, Duke!" a voice answered. "This guy is so scared, he's all thumbs!"

Slim couldn't see through the frosted glass partition, but he guessed they had Jim Rogers, the bank owner, back there. The deputy sheriff eyed Duke from the corner of his eye. The gang leader was getting careless, but not careless enough. Slim groaned inwardly at the thought of the riding in prospect for him. The shimmering desert to the north, then the rimrock, was torture to think of.

Slim squirmed uncomfortably and scratched his back against the wall. Ramsey was watching and unconsciously scratched his neck where a trickle of sweat had made a track through the trail dust. Slim rubbed his back against the wall again. Ramsey was watching and fretfully reached around to scratch his sweat stained back.

Slim seized his chance and dived for the outlaw's gun. He got one calloused paw over the



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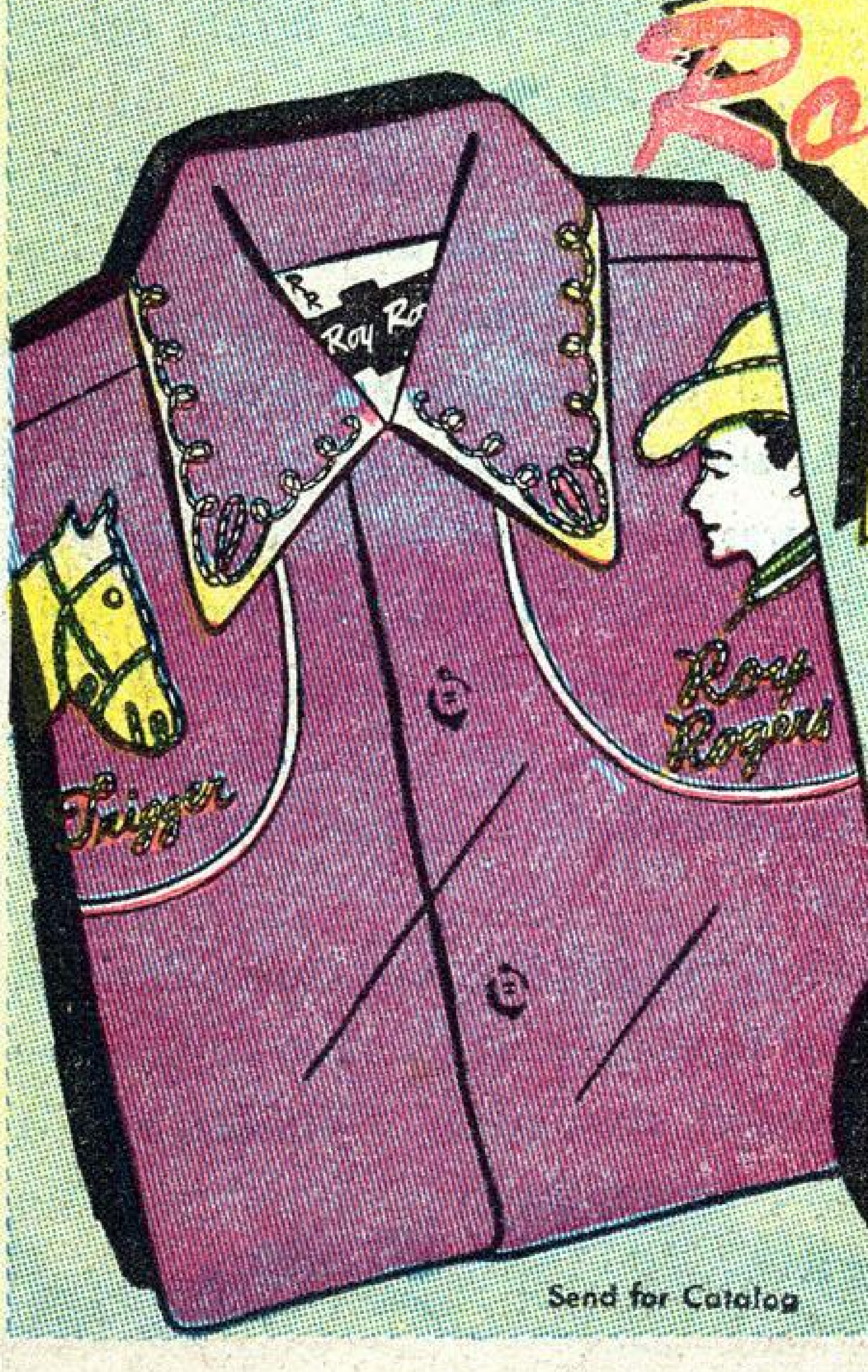

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hammer as the trigger clicked. The hammer came down, pinching the deputy's flesh, but the gun didn't go off. Slim wrapped his other arm around Ramsey's neck, and they crashed to the floor together.

Ramsey rolled over and tried to slug the lawman with his free hand, but Slim beat him to the punch. Ramsey sprawled sideways, and Slim whipped around on top. He didn't waste any time, bringing both knees to the pit of the outlaw's stomach. The grip on the gun loosened, and Slim wrenched it loose. He swung it, butt first, in a short arc, and Ramsey went out cold.

The struggle had taken not more than ten seconds, but Slim felt the sweat popping out. He ran lightly back to the vault, hoping to suprise the pair working there. He was too late. One of the bandits stepped out of the door just as Slim turned to enter.

Their guns roared together, and Slim stepped back to let the other drop. The second bandit dropped behind a desk and fired. Broken glass from the frosted glass panel stung his cheek. Slim dove for the near side of the desk as splinters ripped from the top near his head. Slim peered over the edge cautiously, and the wind from another bullet caused him to duck again. The deputy paused for consideration, then smiled grimly. He drew back from the desk a foot.

"You'd better give up, Jack!" Slim called hopefully. A string of cuss words was the answer that Slim had expected. "Okay, Jack, have it your way!"

Slim raised the heavy, long-barreled forty-five and aimed at the side of the desk. Four shots crashed, evenly spaced; then Slim heard a groan. He rose, warily walked around the desk, and nodded gloomily. It had been foolish of both of them to think that the flimsy desk would stop a forty-five slug. It had been blind shooting, but the desk end was just a little larger than a crouching man's body. One bullet had to find its target.

"You won't need this now," the deputy sheriff grunted as he scooped up the other's gun. He had no time to reload Ramsey's. Slim ran for the front of the bank, noting that Ramsey was still unconscious. He had hoped the man on lookout was still there.

He was. "Duke! Hey, Duke, you all right?" the voice of the guard asked urgently.

Slim peered out. The guard was peering up and down the street nervously. It was less than a minute after the shots, but already men were running toward the bank. Slim decided to make a try.

"Get off that horse!" the deputy sheriff ordered, his gun ready.

He got an answer in the form of a slug in his right arm. The men running had their guns going, but the lookout slammed spurs to his horse and took off. Slim jumped for the reins too late, but he quieted one of the other nags sufficiently to climb aboard despite the handicap of his wounded arm.

He spurred in headlong pursuit and thanked the stars that he had a good horse. Pat Evans appeared far down the street and emptied his gun at the fleeing outlaw. None of the bullets seemed to take effect; then the leading horse staggered and settled into a tired gallop. The sheriff had hit the horse.

Slim closed the gap quickly and came alongside at the edge of town. The other fired point-blank as the deputy sheriff left his saddle in a driving leap. Lawman and bank robber hit the ground in a tangled heap, and Slim felt the breath driven from his lungs, then blackness.

He came to with the sting of iodine on the wound in his arm. Nappy was dumping it on liberally as Slim struggled to a sitting position. The sheriff had the lookout handcuffed even though he was still unconscious in the dust.

The sheriff was mad. "You fool, what did yuh wanta do that for?" he barked. "We could have run 'im down with a posse! No sense in goin' after a man with a gun when yuh didn't have one o' your own! Couldn't hold it if yuh had it. You must be crazy!"

Slim chuckled. "Listen, Pat, any time yuh think I'm posse ridin' in that desert on a hot day, *you're* crazy!" he drawled, then added, "Besides, a fella could get sunstroke out there. It's takin' your life in your hands!"

THE END

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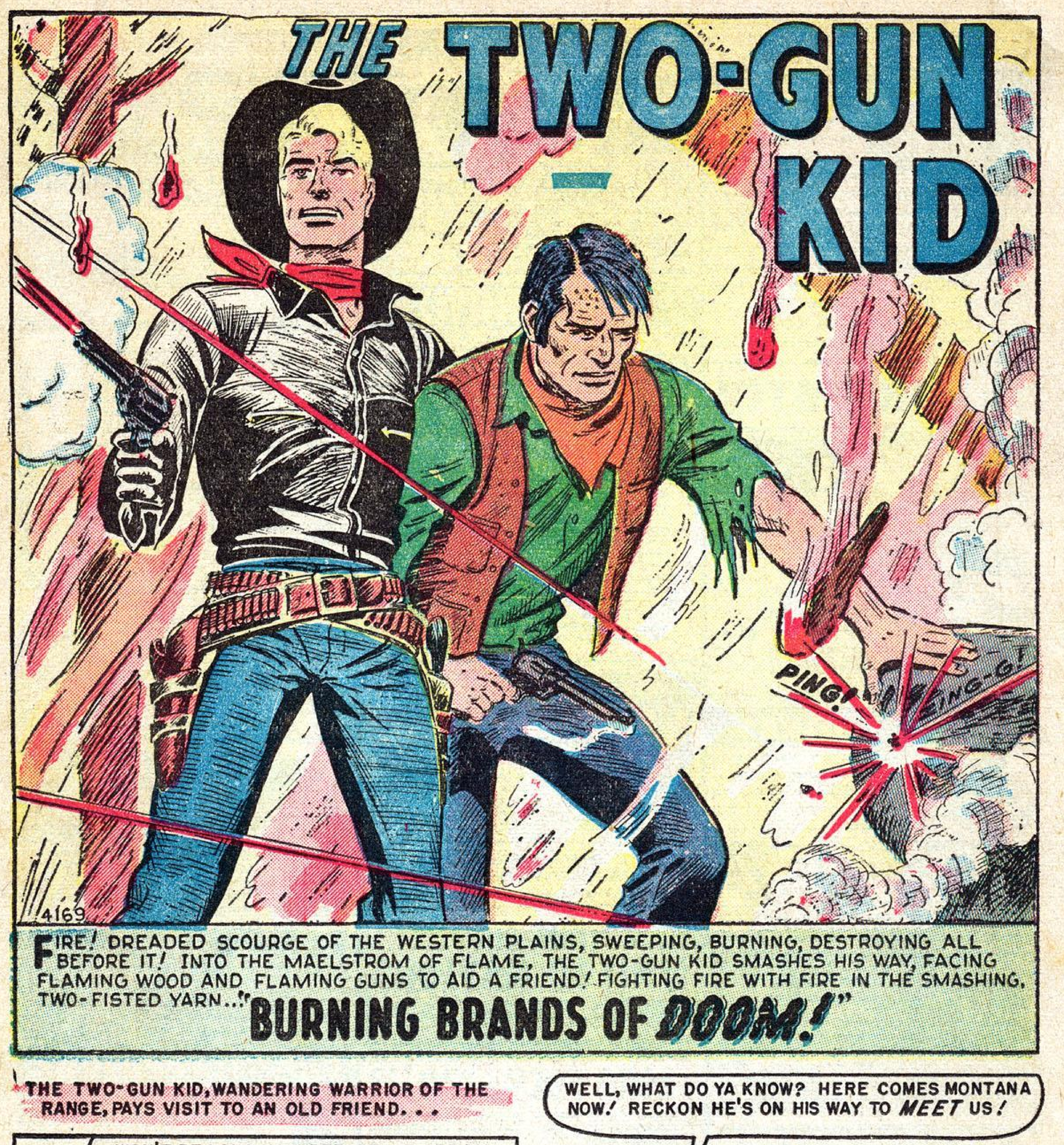
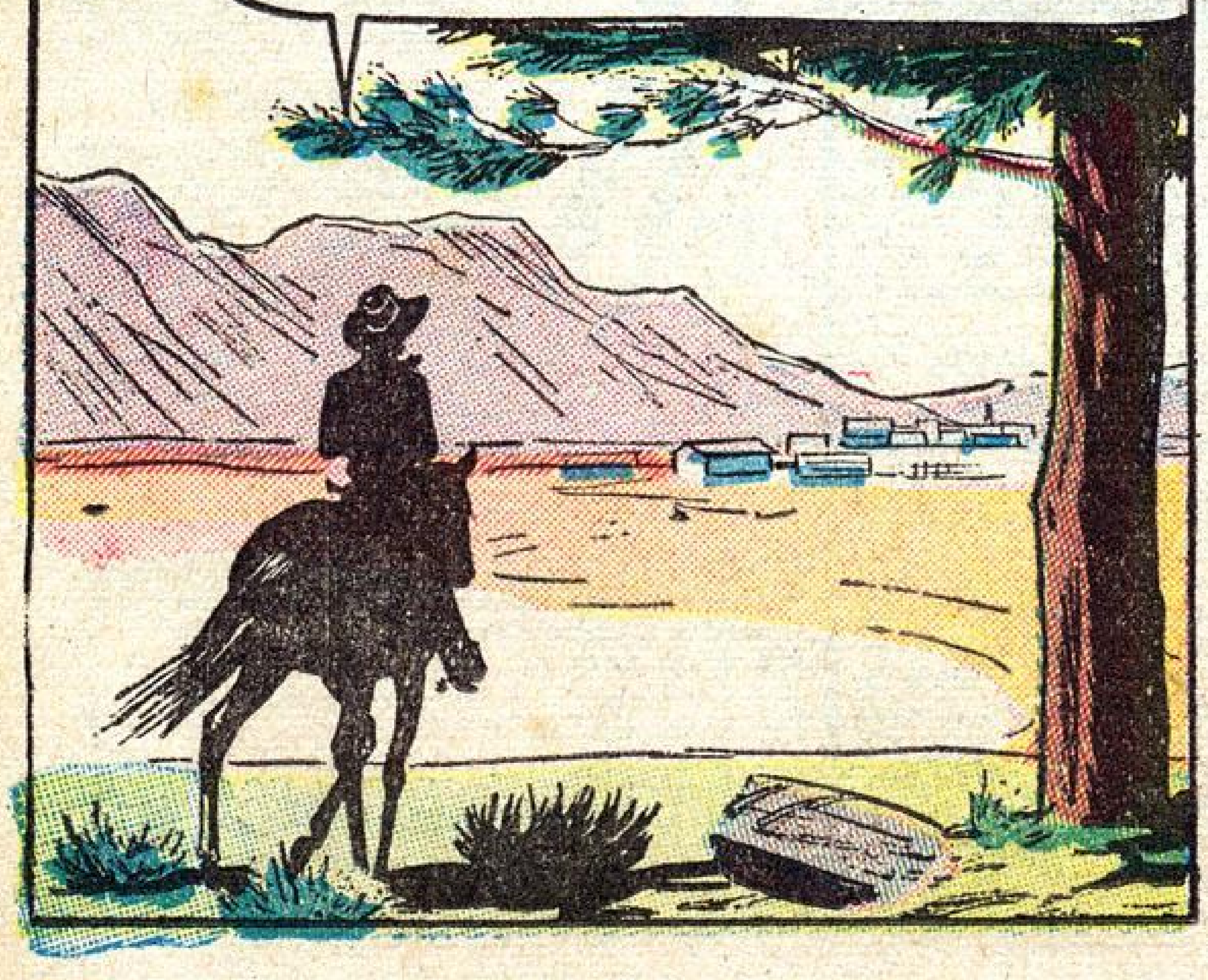
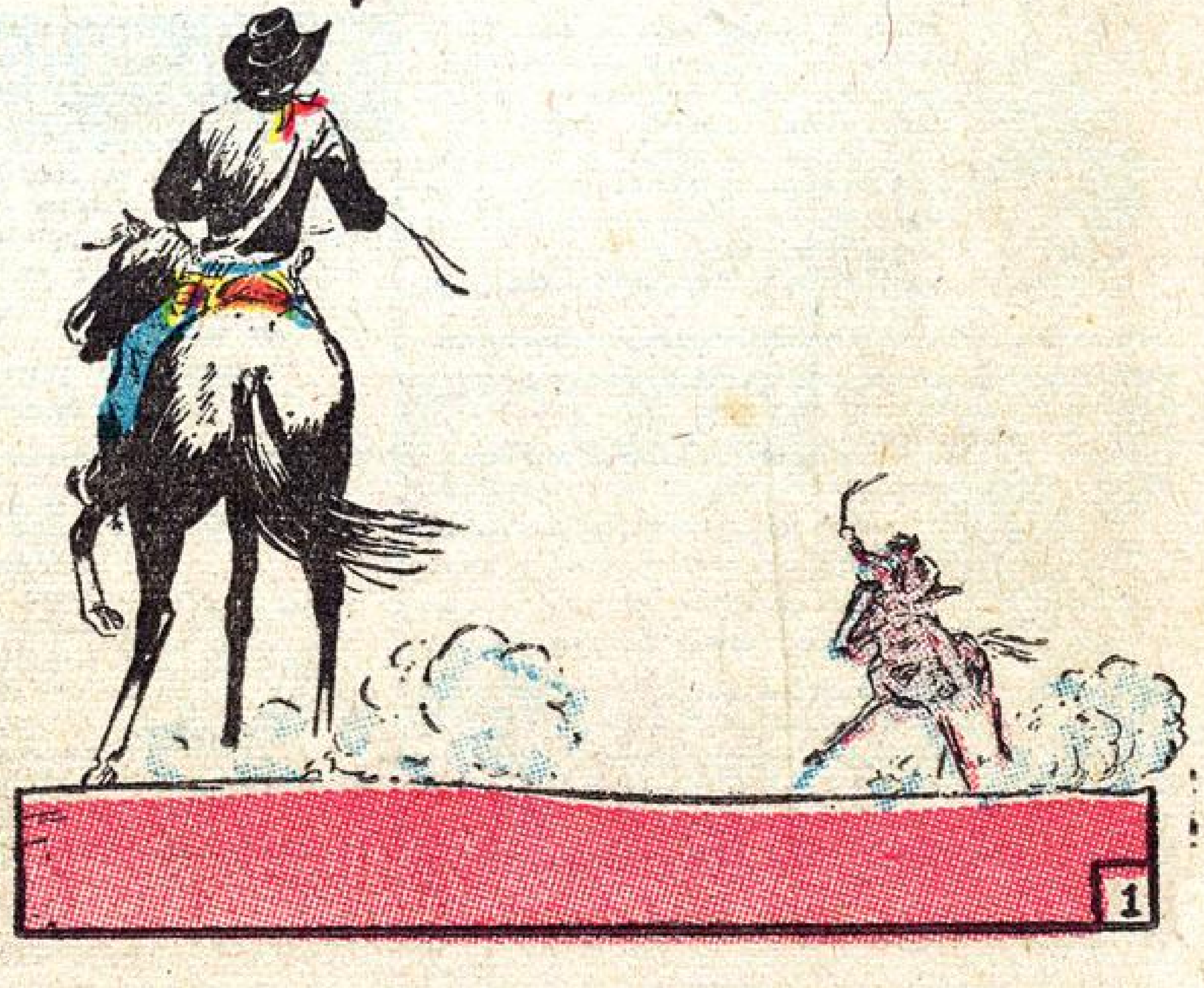

THE TWO-GUN KID
PING!
PING-G!
4169

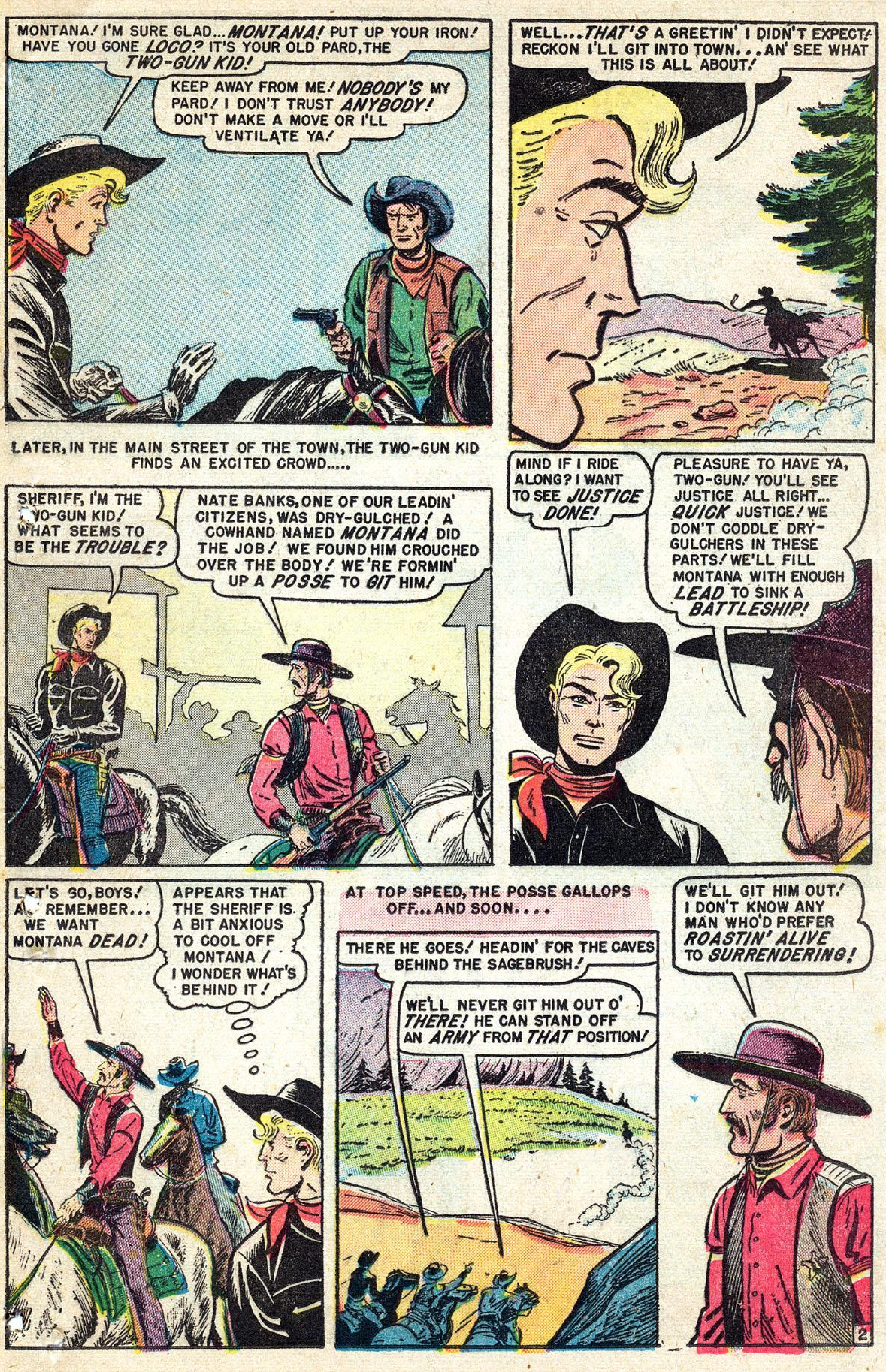
FIRE! DREADED SCOURGE OF THE WESTERN PLAINS, SWEEPING, BURNING, DESTROYING ALL BEFORE IT! INTO THE MAELSTROM OF FLAME, THE TWO-GUN KID SMASHES HIS WAY, FACING FLAMING WOOD AND FLAMING GUNS TO AID A FRIEND! FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE IN THE SMASHING, TWO-FISTED YARN..!

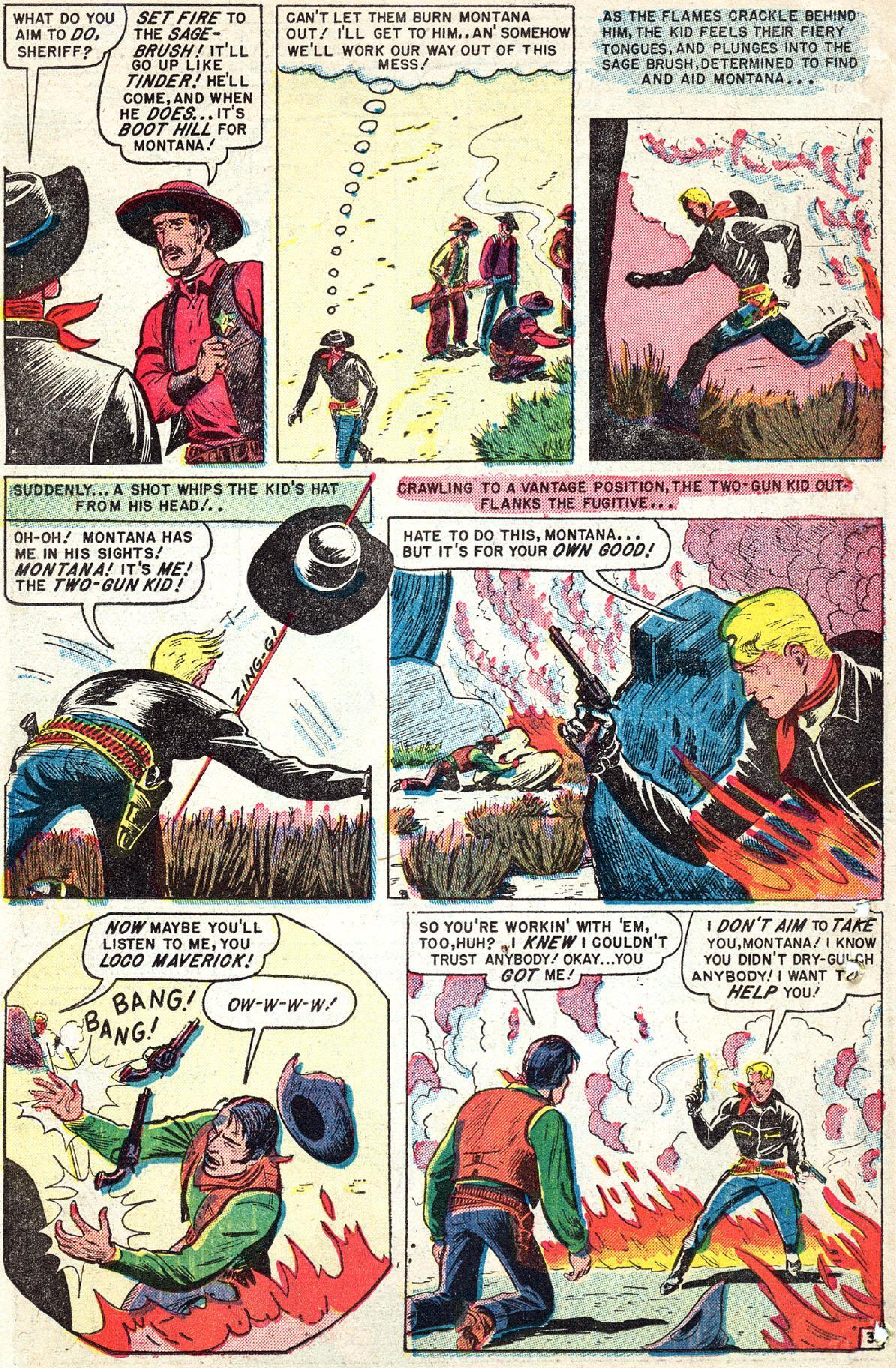
"BURNING BRANDS OF *DOOM!*"

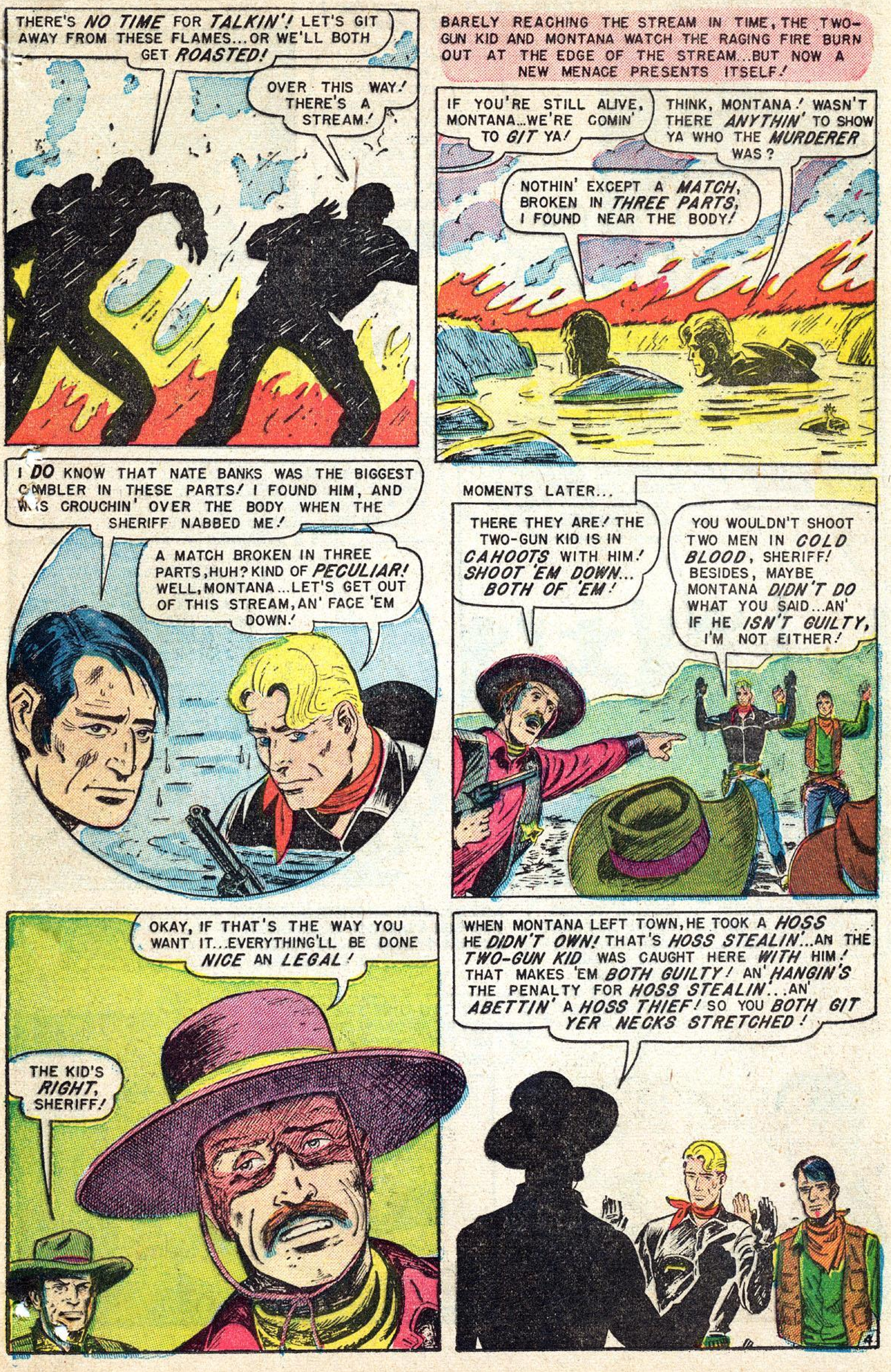
THE TWO-GUN KID, WANDERING WARRIOR OF THE RANGE, PAYS VISIT TO AN OLD FRIEND. . .

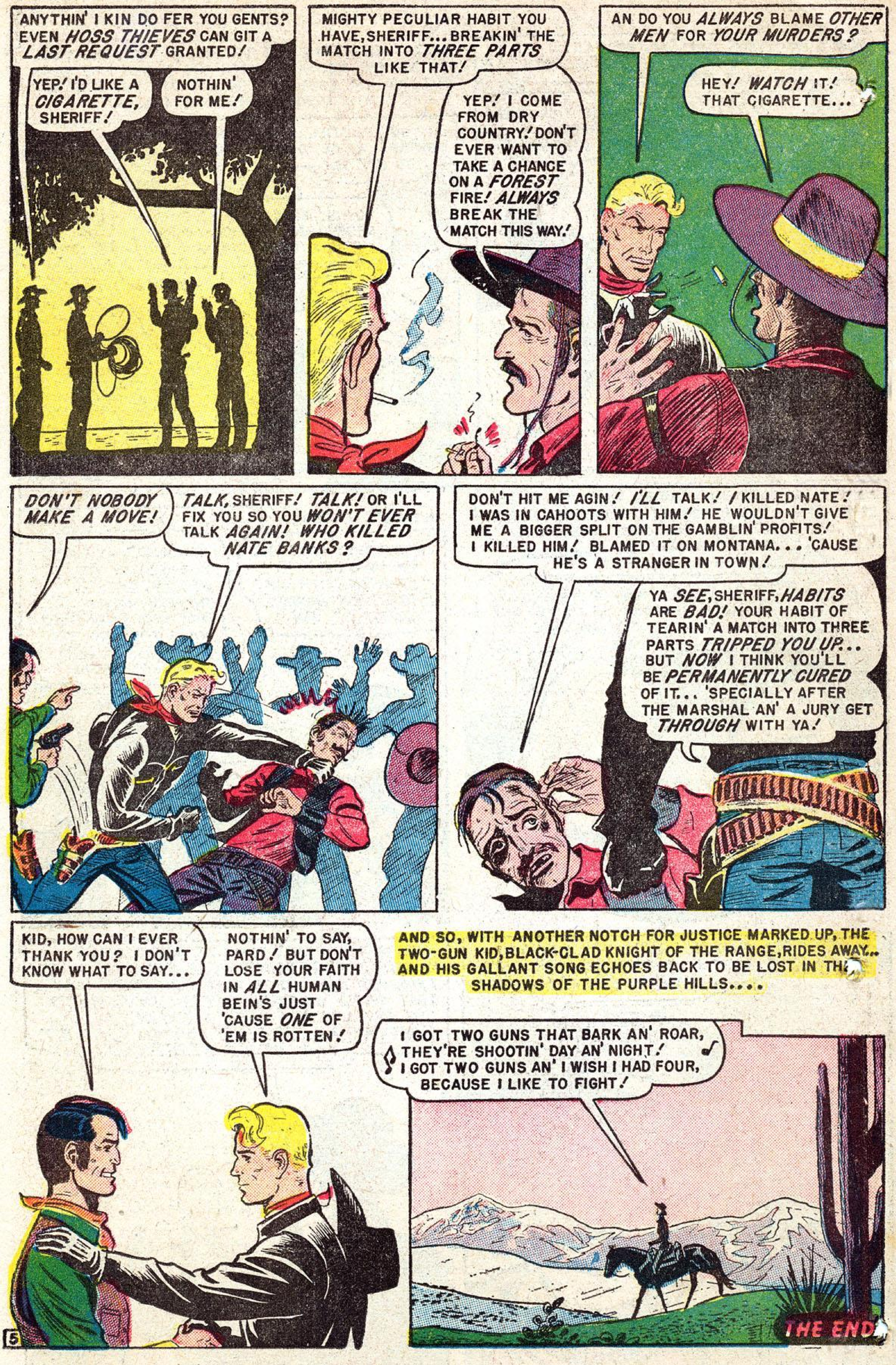

WON'T BE LONG NOW, BEFORE WE SEE MY PARD, MONTANA! YOU'LL LIKE HIM, CYCLONE!


WELL, WHAT DO YA KNOW? HERE COMES MONTANA NOW! RECKON HE'S ON HIS WAY TO *MEET* US!


MONTANA! I'M SURE GLAD... *MONTANA!* PUT UP YOUR IRON! HAVE YOU GONE *LOCO?* IT'S YOUR OLD PARD, THE *TWO-GUN KID!*
KEEP AWAY FROM ME! *NOBODY'S* MY PARD! I DON'T TRUST *ANYBODY!* DON'T MAKE A MOVE OR I'LL VENTILATE YA!
WELL... *THAT'S* A GREETIN' I DIDN'T EXPECT! RECKON I'LL GIT INTO TOWN... AN' SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
LATER, IN THE MAIN STREET OF THE TOWN, THE TWO-GUN KID FINDS AN EXCITED CROWD.....
SHERIFF, I'M THE TWO-GUN KID! WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE *TROUBLE?*
NATE BANKS, ONE OF OUR LEADIN' CITIZENS, WAS DRY-GULCHED! A COWHAND NAMED *MONTANA* DID THE JOB! WE FOUND HIM CROUCHED OVER THE BODY! WE'RE FORMIN' UP A *POSSE* TO *GIT* HIM!
MIND IF I RIDE ALONG? I WANT TO SEE *JUSTICE DONE!*
PLEASURE TO HAVE YA, TWO-GUN! YOU'LL SEE JUSTICE ALL RIGHT... *QUICK* JUSTICE! WE DON'T CODDLE DRY-GULCHERS IN THESE PARTS! WE'LL FILL MONTANA WITH ENOUGH *LEAD* TO SINK A *BATTLESHIP!*
LET'S GO, BOYS! AN' REMEMBER... WE WANT MONTANA *DEAD!*
APPEARS THAT THE SHERIFF IS A BIT ANXIOUS TO COOL OFF MONTANA! I WONDER WHAT'S BEHIND IT!
AT TOP SPEED, THE POSSE GALLOPS OFF... AND SOON....
THERE HE GOES! HEADIN' FOR THE CAVES BEHIND THE SAGEBRUSH!
WE'LL NEVER GIT HIM OUT O' *THERE!* HE CAN STAND OFF AN *ARMY* FROM *THAT* POSITION!
WE'LL GIT HIM OUT! I DON'T KNOW ANY MAN WHO'D PREFER *ROASTIN' ALIVE* TO *SURRENDERING!*
2


WHAT DO YOU AIM TO *DO*, SHERIFF?
SET FIRE TO THE *SAGE-BRUSH!* IT'LL GO UP LIKE *TINDER!* HE'LL COME, AND WHEN HE *DOES*... IT'S *BOOT HILL* FOR MONTANA!
CAN'T LET THEM BURN MONTANA OUT! I'LL GET TO HIM.. AN' SOMEHOW WE'LL WORK OUR WAY OUT OF THIS MESS!
AS THE FLAMES CRACKLE BEHIND HIM, THE KID FEELS THEIR FIERY TONGUES, AND PLUNGES INTO THE SAGE BRUSH, DETERMINED TO FIND AND AID MONTANA...
SUDDENLY... A SHOT WHIPS THE KID'S HAT FROM HIS HEAD!..
OH-OH! MONTANA HAS ME IN HIS SIGHTS! *MONTANA!* IT'S *ME!* THE *TWO-GUN KID!*
ZING-G!
CRAWLING TO A VANTAGE POSITION, THE TWO-GUN KID OUT-FLANKS THE FUGITIVE...
HATE TO DO THIS, MONTANA... BUT IT'S FOR YOUR *OWN GOOD!*
NOW MAYBE YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME, YOU *LOCO MAVERICK!*
BANG! BANG!
OW-W-W-W!
SO YOU'RE WORKIN' WITH 'EM, TOO, HUH? I *KNEW* I COULDN'T TRUST ANYBODY! OKAY... YOU *GOT* ME!
I *DON'T AIM* TO *TAKE* YOU, MONTANA! I KNOW YOU DIDN'T DRY-GULCH ANYBODY! I WANT TO *HELP* YOU!


THERE'S *NO TIME* FOR *TALKIN'*! LET'S GIT AWAY FROM THESE FLAMES...OR WE'LL BOTH GET *ROASTED*!
OVER THIS WAY! THERE'S A STREAM!
BARELY REACHING THE STREAM IN TIME, THE TWO-GUN KID AND MONTANA WATCH THE RAGING FIRE BURN OUT AT THE EDGE OF THE STREAM...BUT NOW A NEW MENACE PRESENTS ITSELF!
IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, MONTANA...WE'RE COMIN' TO *GIT* YA!
THINK, MONTANA! WASN'T THERE *ANYTHIN'* TO SHOW YA WHO THE *MURDERER* WAS?
NOTHIN' EXCEPT A *MATCH*, BROKEN IN *THREE PARTS*, I FOUND NEAR THE BODY!
I *DO* KNOW THAT NATE BANKS WAS THE BIGGEST GAMBLER IN THESE PARTS! I FOUND HIM, AND WAS CROUCHIN' OVER THE BODY WHEN THE SHERIFF NABBED ME!
A MATCH BROKEN IN THREE PARTS, HUH? KIND OF *PECULIAR*! WELL, MONTANA...LET'S GET OUT OF THIS STREAM, AN' FACE 'EM DOWN!
MOMENTS LATER...
THERE THEY ARE! THE TWO-GUN KID IS IN *CAHOOTS* WITH HIM! *SHOOT 'EM DOWN... BOTH OF 'EM*!
YOU WOULDN'T SHOOT TWO MEN IN *COLD BLOOD*, SHERIFF! BESIDES, MAYBE MONTANA *DIDN'T DO* WHAT YOU SAID...AN' IF HE *ISN'T GUILTY*, I'M NOT EITHER!
OKAY, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT...EVERYTHING'LL BE DONE *NICE* AN *LEGAL*!
THE KID'S *RIGHT*, SHERIFF!
WHEN MONTANA LEFT TOWN, HE TOOK A *HOSS* HE *DIDN'T OWN*! THAT'S *HOSS STEALIN'*...AN THE *TWO-GUN KID* WAS CAUGHT HERE *WITH* HIM! THAT MAKES 'EM *BOTH GUILTY*! AN' *HANGIN'S* THE PENALTY FOR *HOSS STEALIN'*...AN' *ABETTIN'* A *HOSS THIEF*! SO YOU *BOTH GIT YER NECKS STRETCHED*!
4


ANYTHIN' I KIN DO FER YOU GENTS? EVEN HOSS THIEVES CAN GIT A LAST REQUEST GRANTED!
YEP! I'D LIKE A CIGARETTE, SHERIFF!
NOTHIN' FOR ME!
MIGHTY PECULIAR HABIT YOU HAVE, SHERIFF... BREAKIN' THE MATCH INTO THREE PARTS LIKE THAT!
YEP! I COME FROM DRY COUNTRY! DON'T EVER WANT TO TAKE A CHANCE ON A FOREST FIRE! ALWAYS BREAK THE MATCH THIS WAY!
AN DO YOU ALWAYS BLAME OTHER MEN FOR YOUR MURDERS?
HEY! WATCH IT! THAT CIGARETTE...
DON'T NOBODY MAKE A MOVE!
TALK, SHERIFF! TALK! OR I'LL FIX YOU SO YOU WON'T EVER TALK AGAIN! WHO KILLED NATE BANKS?
DON'T HIT ME AGIN! I'LL TALK! I KILLED NATE! I WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH HIM! HE WOULDN'T GIVE ME A BIGGER SPLIT ON THE GAMBLIN' PROFITS! I KILLED HIM! BLAMED IT ON MONTANA... 'CAUSE HE'S A STRANGER IN TOWN!
YA SEE, SHERIFF, HABITS ARE BAD! YOUR HABIT OF TEARIN' A MATCH INTO THREE PARTS TRIPPED YOU UP... BUT NOW I THINK YOU'LL BE PERMANENTLY CURED OF IT... 'SPECIALLY AFTER THE MARSHAL AN' A JURY GET THROUGH WITH YA!
KID, HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU? I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
NOTHIN' TO SAY, PARD! BUT DON'T LOSE YOUR FAITH IN ALL HUMAN BEIN'S JUST 'CAUSE ONE OF 'EM IS ROTTEN!
AND SO, WITH ANOTHER NOTCH FOR JUSTICE MARKED UP, THE TWO-GUN KID, BLACK-CLAD KNIGHT OF THE RANGE, RIDES AWAY... AND HIS GALLANT SONG ECHOES BACK TO BE LOST IN THE SHADOWS OF THE PURPLE HILLS....
I GOT TWO GUNS THAT BARK AN' ROAR, THEY'RE SHOOTIN' DAY AN' NIGHT! I GOT TWO GUNS AN' I WISH I HAD FOUR, BECAUSE I LIKE TO FIGHT!
THE END
5

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STAMP NEWS

By KENT B. STILES

In this election year it is not too surprising that Senators and Congressmen, eager to please constituents, should enact an unusual large number of bills calling for new postage stamps. In these columns recently we presented information regarding a dozen or so such items which the Post Office Department had, either voluntarily or because required by law, placed on the nation's stamp-issuing schedule for 1948. Since publication of those earlier writings three more bills have been enacted at Washington. President Truman, in this election year, signed them – and so three more stamps are added to the current program, as follows:

(1) An airmail 5c to mark the merger of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx and Staten Island into the municipality of New York, fifty years ago.

(2) A stamp to honor the volunteer firemen of America.

(3) A stamp to mark the centenary of the establishing of Fort Kearney in Nebraska.

Meanwhile the promised 3c purple for the centennial of the first woman's rights convention at Seneca Falls, N. Y., in 1848, has been issued. This commemorative has "100 Years of Progress of Women" inscribed under portraits of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902), Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947) and Lucretia Coffin Mott (1793-1880). Elizabeth Stanton and Lucretia Mott, newcomers to philately's galley, were organizers of the "votes for women" movement at Seneca Falls.

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WOW!! $10.00 WORTH OF FUN — ONLY 10c!
What a treasure hunt! Big package 500 Foreign Stamps from foreign missions, other sources. Includes Stamps from Africa, South America, Free French, Cape Juby, Palestine, etc. Includes airmails, commemoratives and stamps worth up to 50c. This offer sent for 10c to Approval Applicants only.
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Lana
Mitzi
My Romance
Oscar
Powerhouse Pepper
Rusty
Super Rabbit
Tex Taylor
The Witness
Venus
Wacky Duck

Hi, Friends:

The editors of this magazine would like to ask you an important question — Why are you reading this magazine?

We believe the answer is that you enjoy comics, and that you enjoy reading this particular comic.

We want to help you protect your right to buy and read your favorite magazines, as long as they contain nothing that might be harmful to you. That is why we are writing you this open letter.

Lately, lots of people have been criticizing comics. They have been saying that comics teach you youngsters things that are not good for you, things like violence, cruelty, immorality, etc.

Some time back, we were fortunate in obtaining editorial advice from Dr. Jean Thompson, a psychiatrist in the Child Guidance Bureau of the New York City Board of Education. Dr. Thompson read our magazines, approved our stories generally, gave us suggestions for the finest kind of stories, and agreed to serve as editorial consultant on all future magazines. She will insure the fact that our comics contain nothing that might meet with objections from your parents, teachers or friends.

That is *our* answer to the charge that comics are bad.

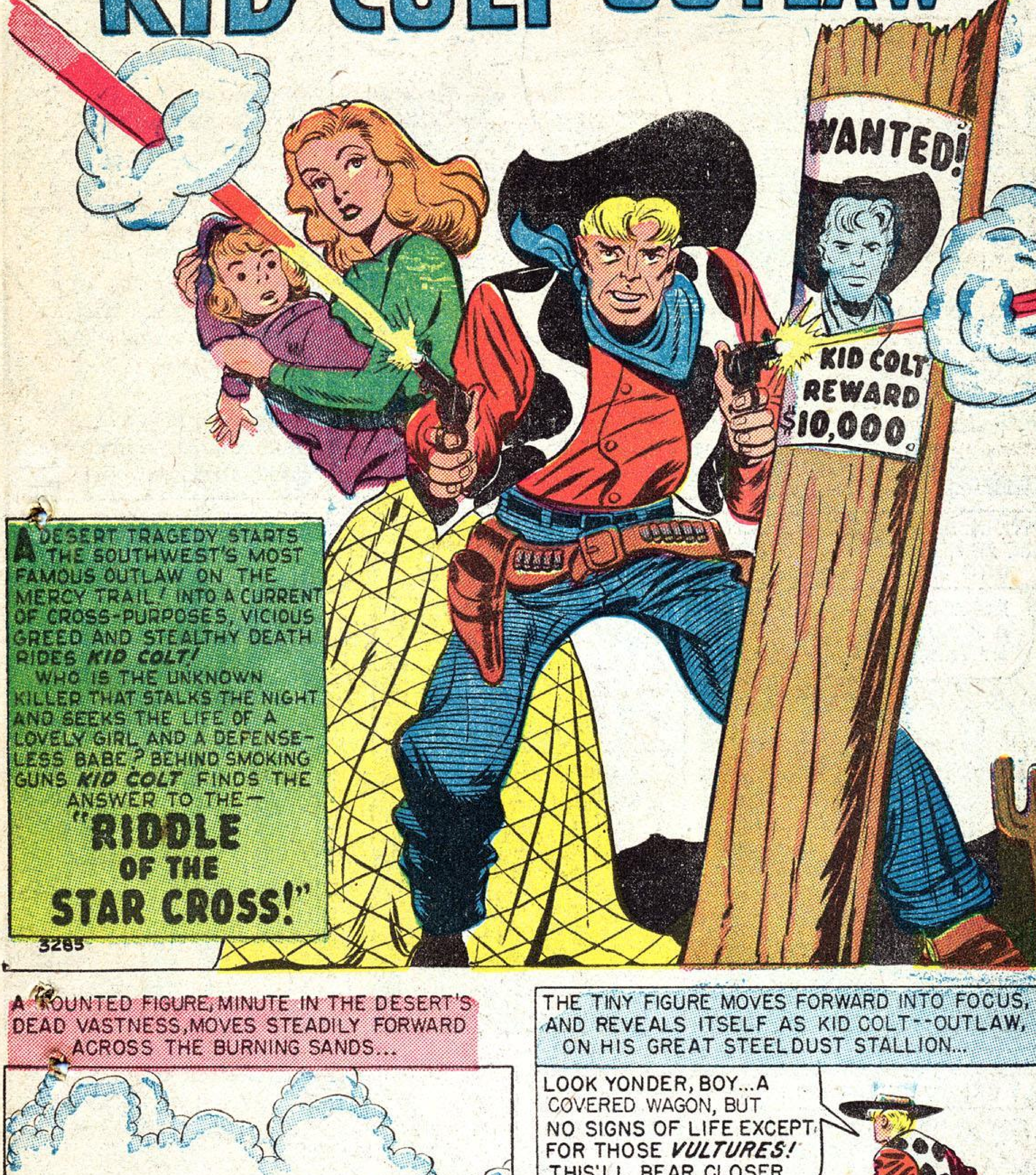
Now, this is the way we can help *you* keep the privilege of buying and reading what you want. The magazines listed on this page are all in the Marvel Comic Group. Look through them, and you will see that there is nothing in these magazines that could possibly be considered harmful. Then show them to the critics of comics. Prove to those people that here is reading matter that no one can criticize.

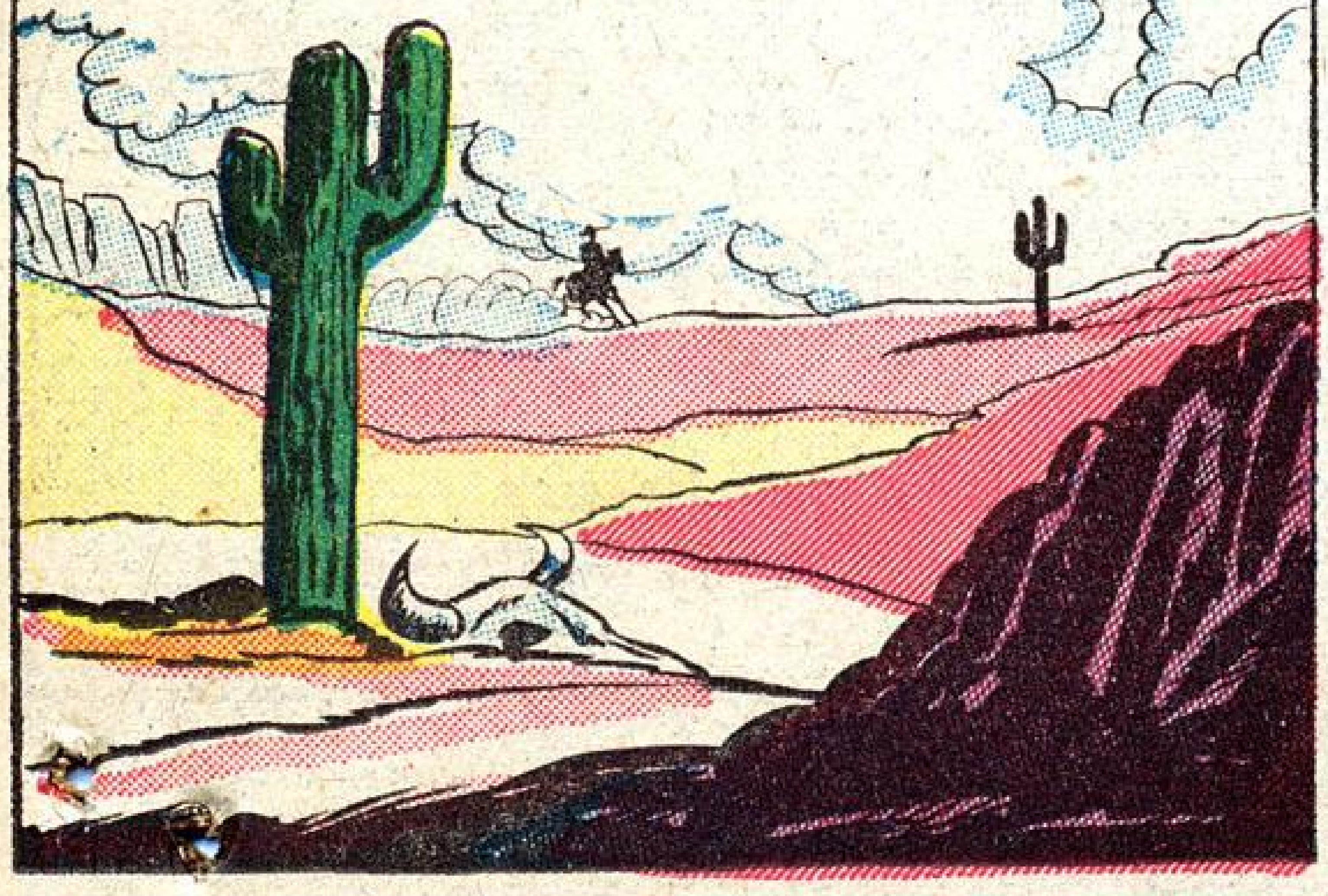
Use judgment. Buy only the best comics, like the magazines listed on this page, or any of the other *good* ones, and prove to people that the magazines *you* read are above criticism.

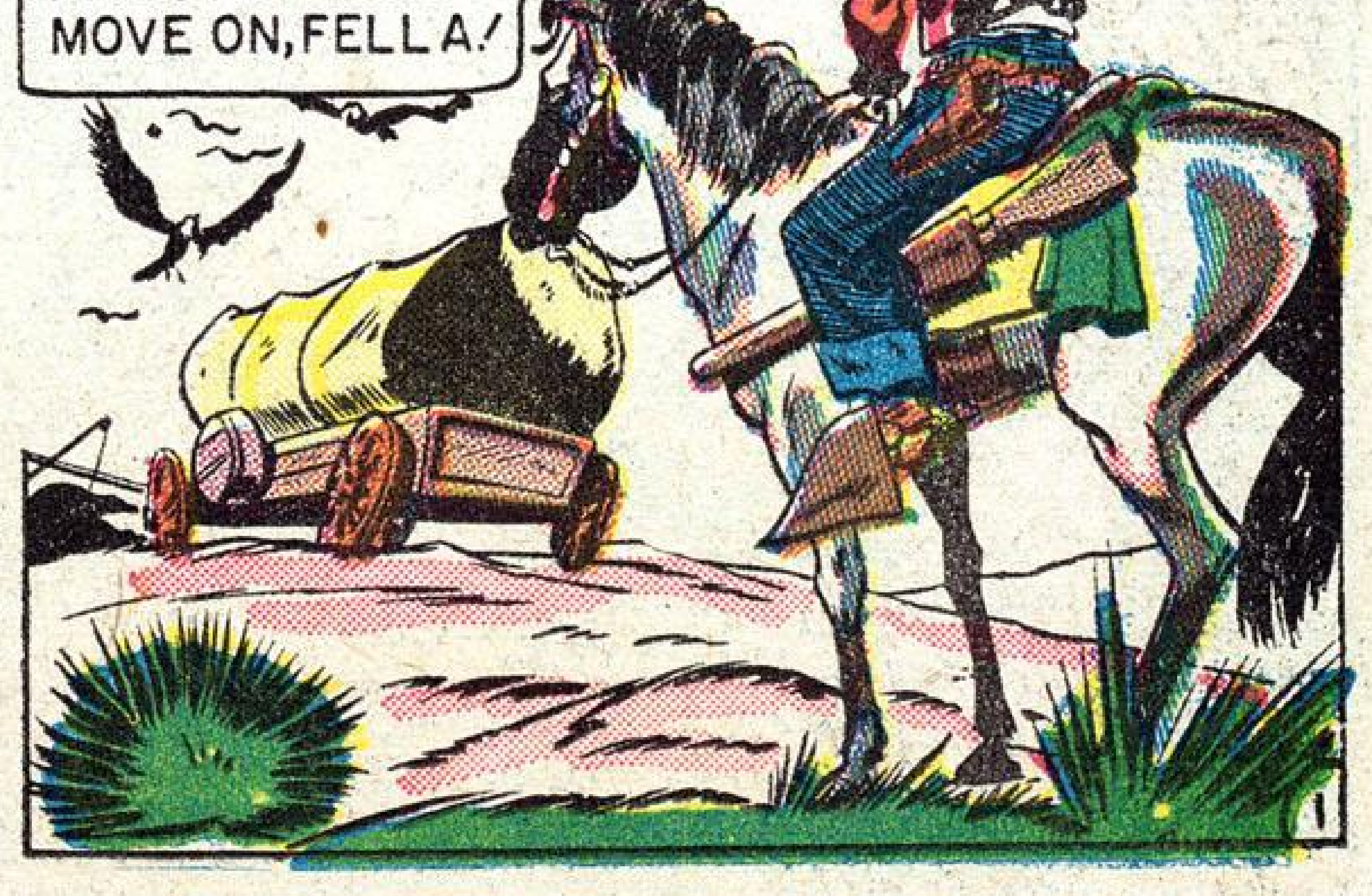
If you do that, no one will ever want to take your magazines away from you.

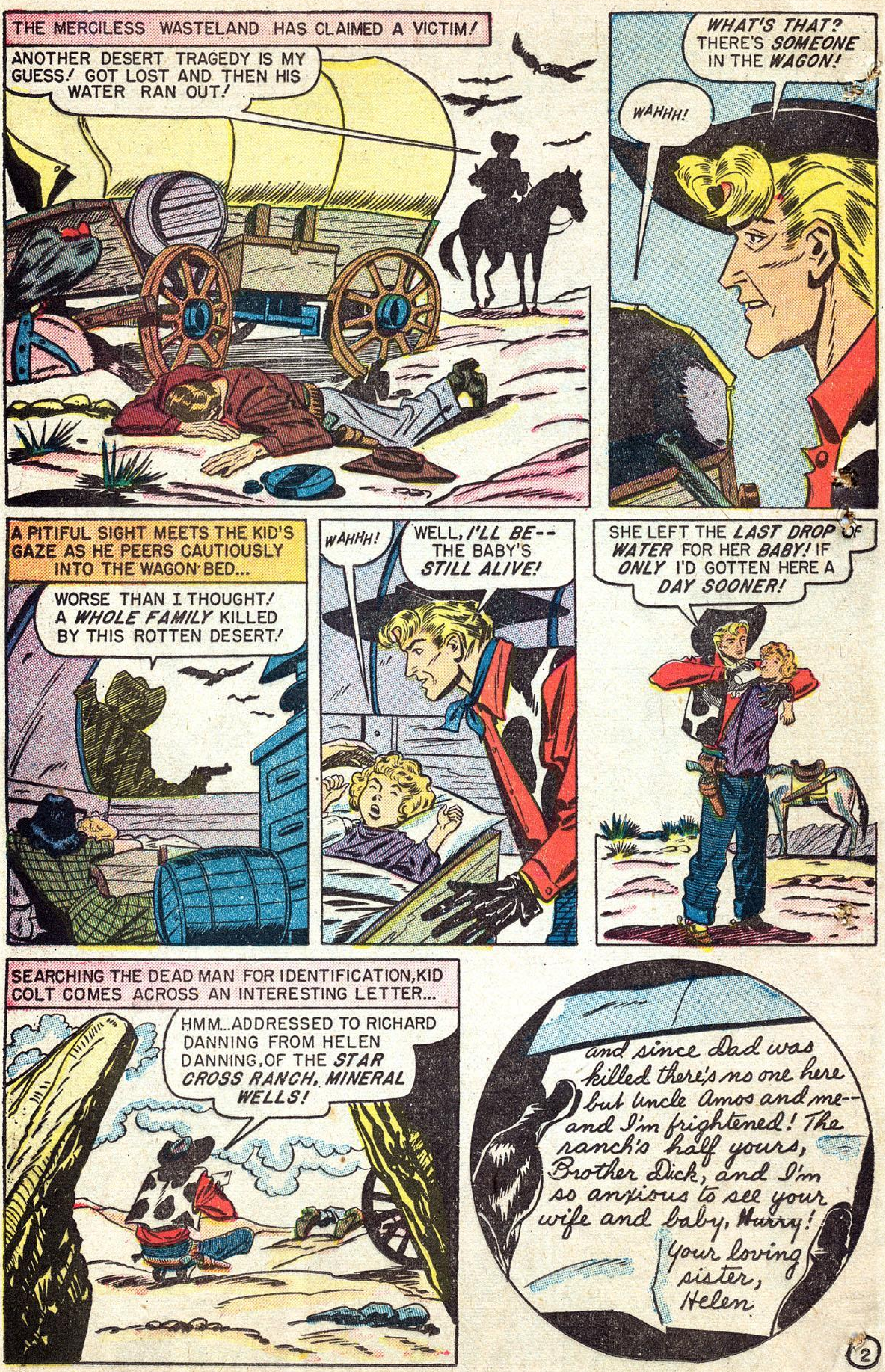
The Editors
Marvel Comic Group

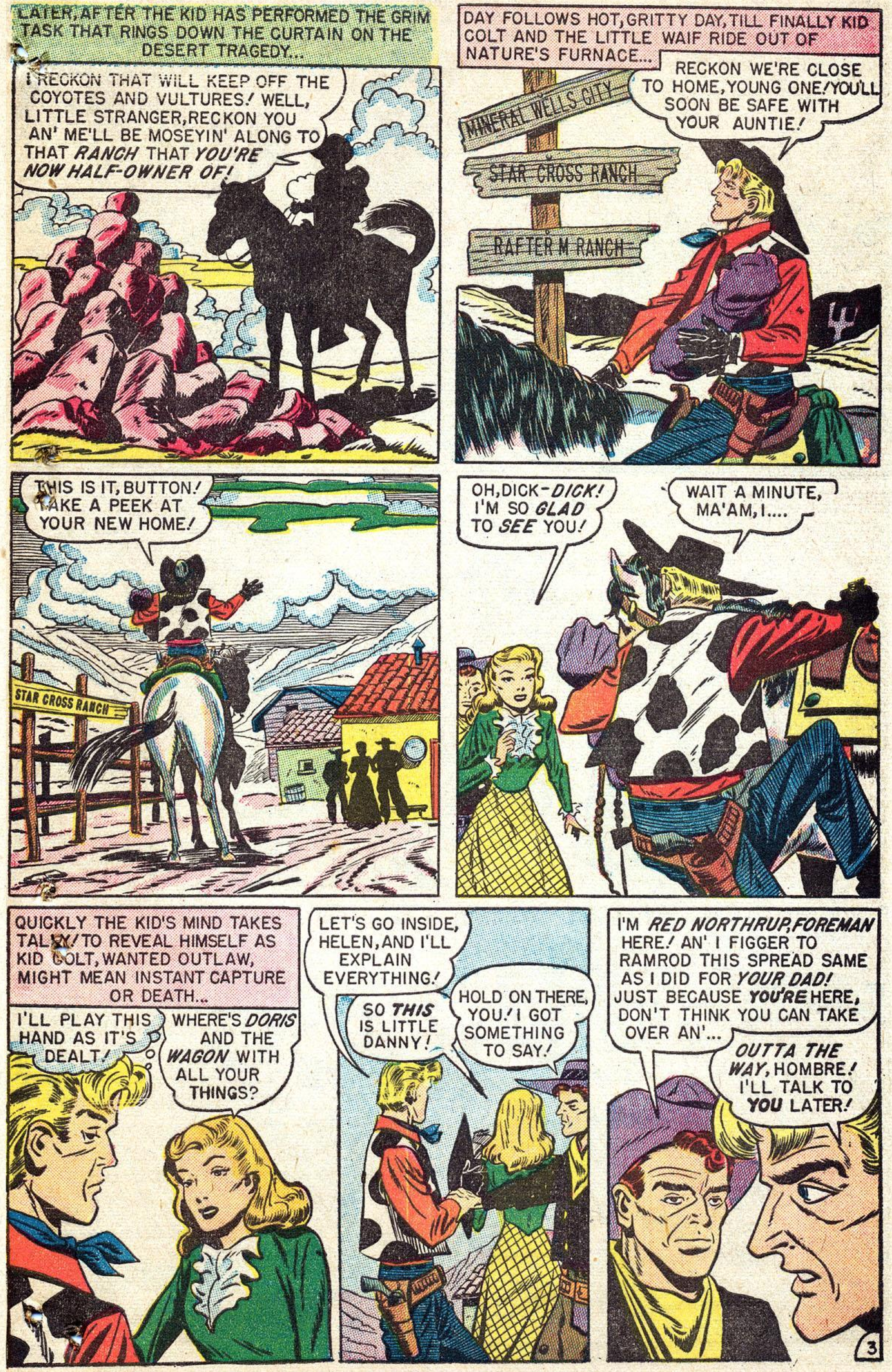
KID COLT OUTLAW

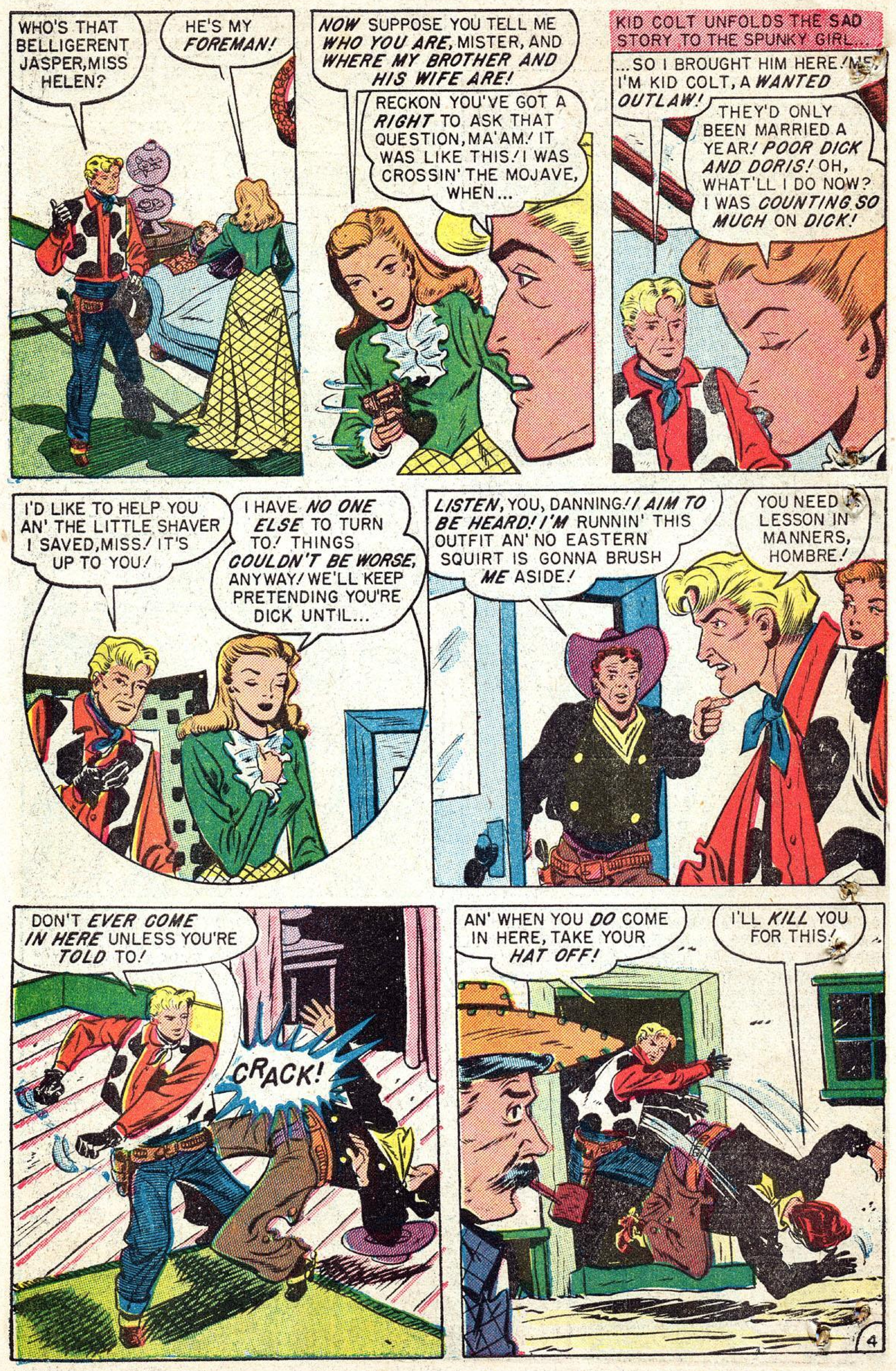

WANTED!
KID COLT
REWARD
$10,000
A DESERT TRAGEDY STARTS THE SOUTHWEST'S MOST FAMOUS OUTLAW ON THE MERCY TRAIL! INTO A CURRENT OF CROSS-PURPOSES, VICIOUS GREED AND STEALTHY DEATH RIDES *KID COLT!*
WHO IS THE UNKNOWN KILLER THAT STALKS THE NIGHT AND SEEKS THE LIFE OF A LOVELY GIRL, AND A DEFENSELESS BABE? BEHIND SMOKING GUNS *KID COLT* FINDS THE ANSWER TO THE—
"RIDDLE OF THE STAR CROSS!"
3285

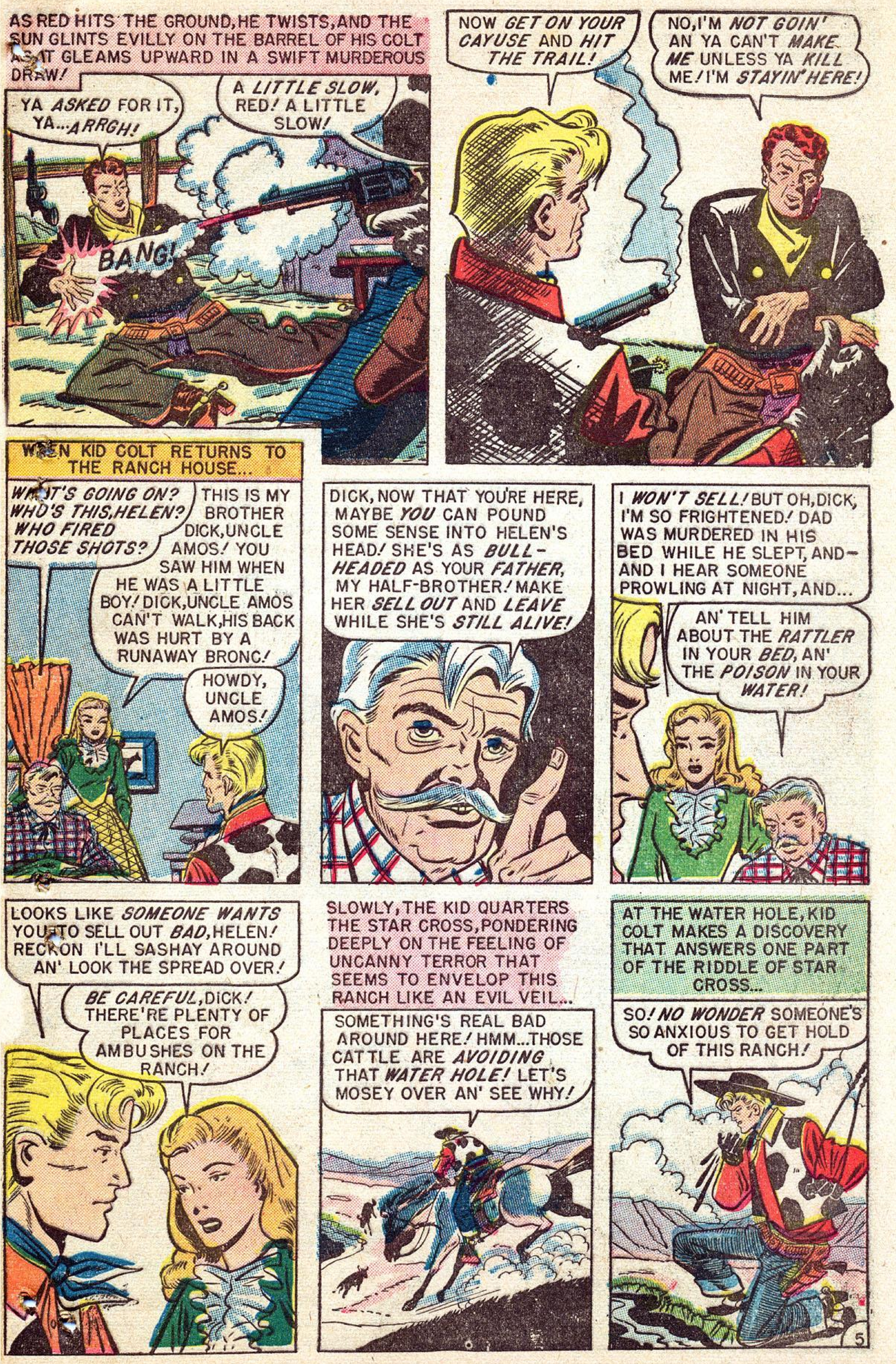

A MOUNTED FIGURE, MINUTE IN THE DESERT'S DEAD VASTNESS, MOVES STEADILY FORWARD ACROSS THE BURNING SANDS...

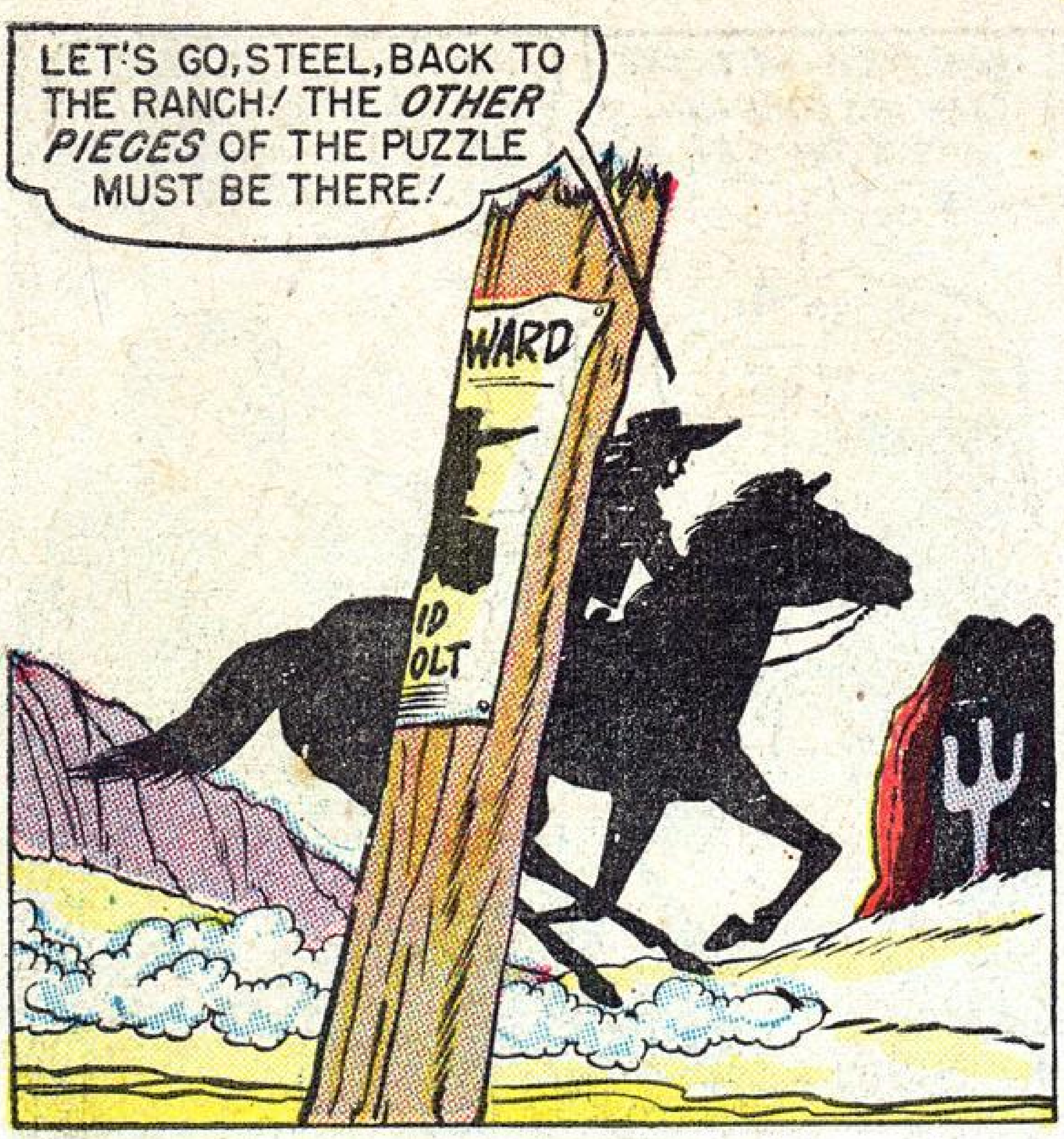

THE TINY FIGURE MOVES FORWARD INTO FOCUS, AND REVEALS ITSELF AS KID COLT--OUTLAW, ON HIS GREAT STEELDUST STALLION..
LOOK YONDER, BOY...A COVERED WAGON, BUT NO SIGNS OF LIFE EXCEPT FOR THOSE *VULTURES!* THIS'LL BEAR CLOSER INVESTIGATION! MOVE ON, FELLA!

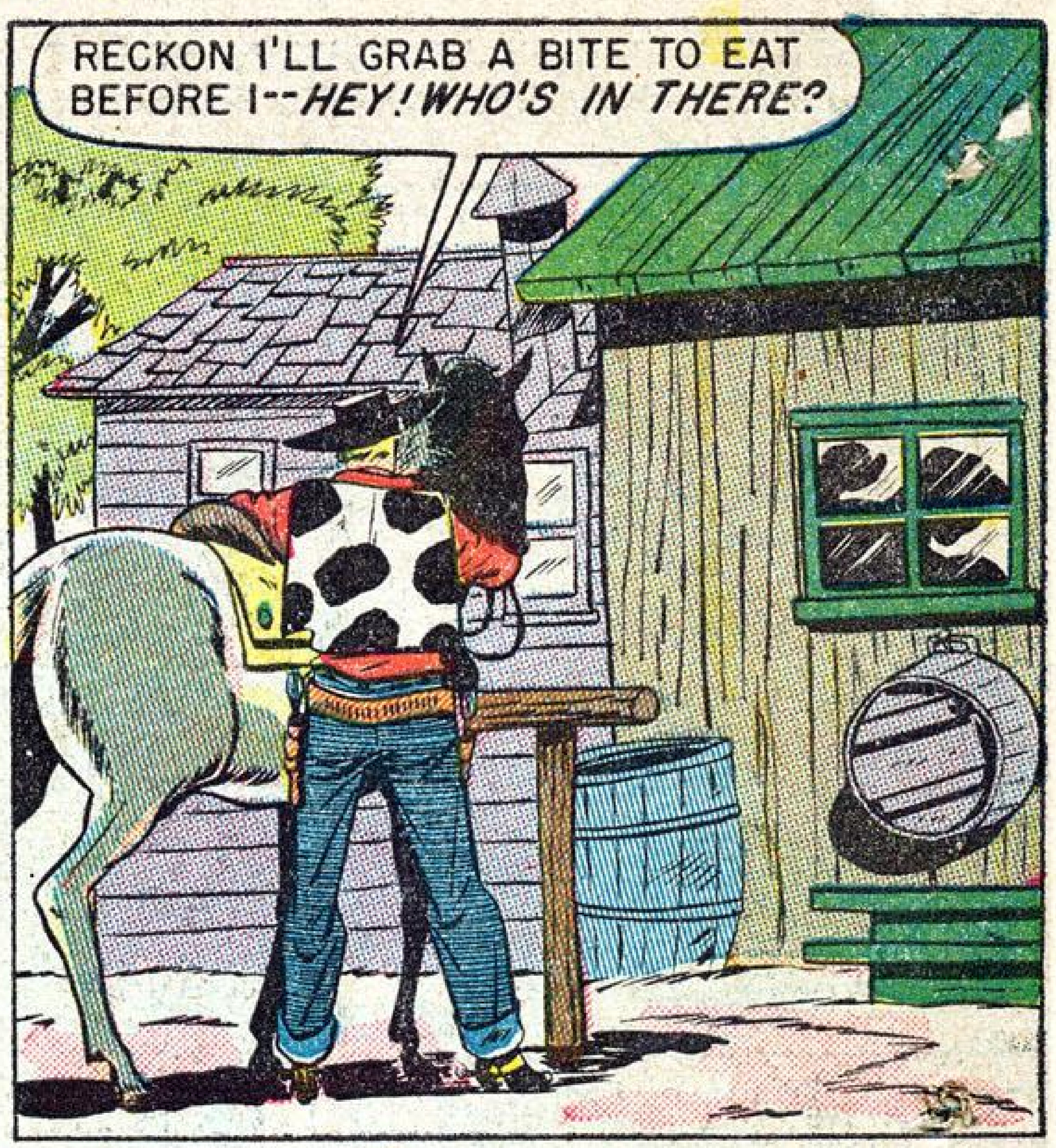

THE MERCILESS WASTELAND HAS CLAIMED A VICTIM!
ANOTHER DESERT TRAGEDY IS MY GUESS! GOT LOST AND THEN HIS WATER RAN OUT!
WHAT'S THAT? THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE WAGON!
WAHHH!
A PITIFUL SIGHT MEETS THE KID'S GAZE AS HE PEERS CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE WAGON BED...
WORSE THAN I THOUGHT! A WHOLE FAMILY KILLED BY THIS ROTTEN DESERT!
WAHHH!
WELL, I'LL BE-- THE BABY'S STILL ALIVE!
SHE LEFT THE LAST DROP OF WATER FOR HER BABY! IF ONLY I'D GOTTEN HERE A DAY SOONER!
SEARCHING THE DEAD MAN FOR IDENTIFICATION, KID COLT COMES ACROSS AN INTERESTING LETTER...
HMM...ADDRESSED TO RICHARD DANNING FROM HELEN DANNING, OF THE STAR CROSS RANCH, MINERAL WELLS!
and since Dad was killed there's no one here but Uncle Amos and me-- and I'm frightened! The ranch's half yours, Brother Dick, and I'm so anxious to see your wife and baby, ~~Harry~~! Your loving sister, Helen

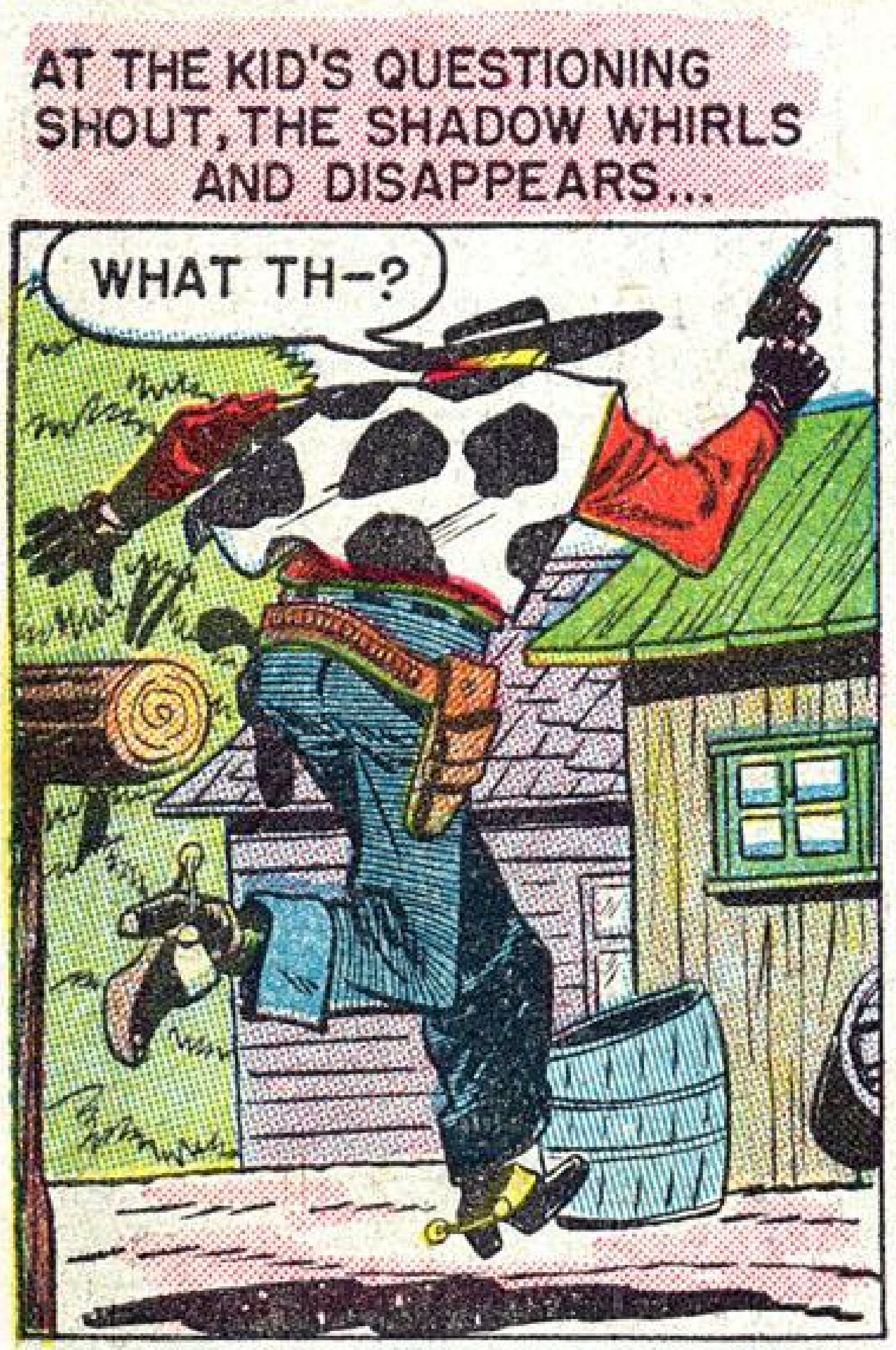

LATER, AFTER THE KID HAS PERFORMED THE GRIM TASK THAT RINGS DOWN THE CURTAIN ON THE DESERT TRAGEDY...
I RECKON THAT WILL KEEP OFF THE COYOTES AND VULTURES! WELL, LITTLE STRANGER, RECKON YOU AN' ME'LL BE MOSEYIN' ALONG TO THAT *RANCH* THAT *YOU'RE NOW HALF-OWNER OF!*
DAY FOLLOWS HOT, GRITTY DAY, TILL FINALLY **KID** COLT AND THE LITTLE WAIF RIDE OUT OF NATURE'S FURNACE...
MINERAL WELLS CITY
STAR CROSS RANCH
RAFTER M RANCH
RECKON WE'RE CLOSE TO HOME, YOUNG ONE! YOU'LL SOON BE SAFE WITH YOUR AUNTIE!
THIS IS IT, BUTTON! TAKE A PEEK AT YOUR NEW HOME!
STAR CROSS RANCH
OH, DICK-*DICK!* I'M SO *GLAD* TO *SEE* YOU!
WAIT A MINUTE, MA'AM, I....
QUICKLY THE KID'S MIND TAKES TALLY! TO REVEAL HIMSELF AS KID COLT, WANTED OUTLAW, MIGHT MEAN INSTANT CAPTURE OR DEATH...
I'LL PLAY THIS HAND AS IT'S DEALT!
WHERE'S *DORIS* AND THE *WAGON* WITH ALL YOUR THINGS?
LET'S GO INSIDE, HELEN, AND I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
SO **THIS** IS LITTLE DANNY!
HOLD ON THERE, YOU! I GOT SOMETHING TO SAY!
I'M *RED NORTHRUP, FOREMAN* HERE! AN' I FIGGER TO RAMROD THIS SPREAD SAME AS I DID FOR *YOUR DAD!* JUST BECAUSE ***YOU'RE*** HERE, DON'T THINK YOU CAN TAKE OVER AN'...
OUTTA THE WAY, HOMBRE! I'LL TALK TO **YOU** LATER!

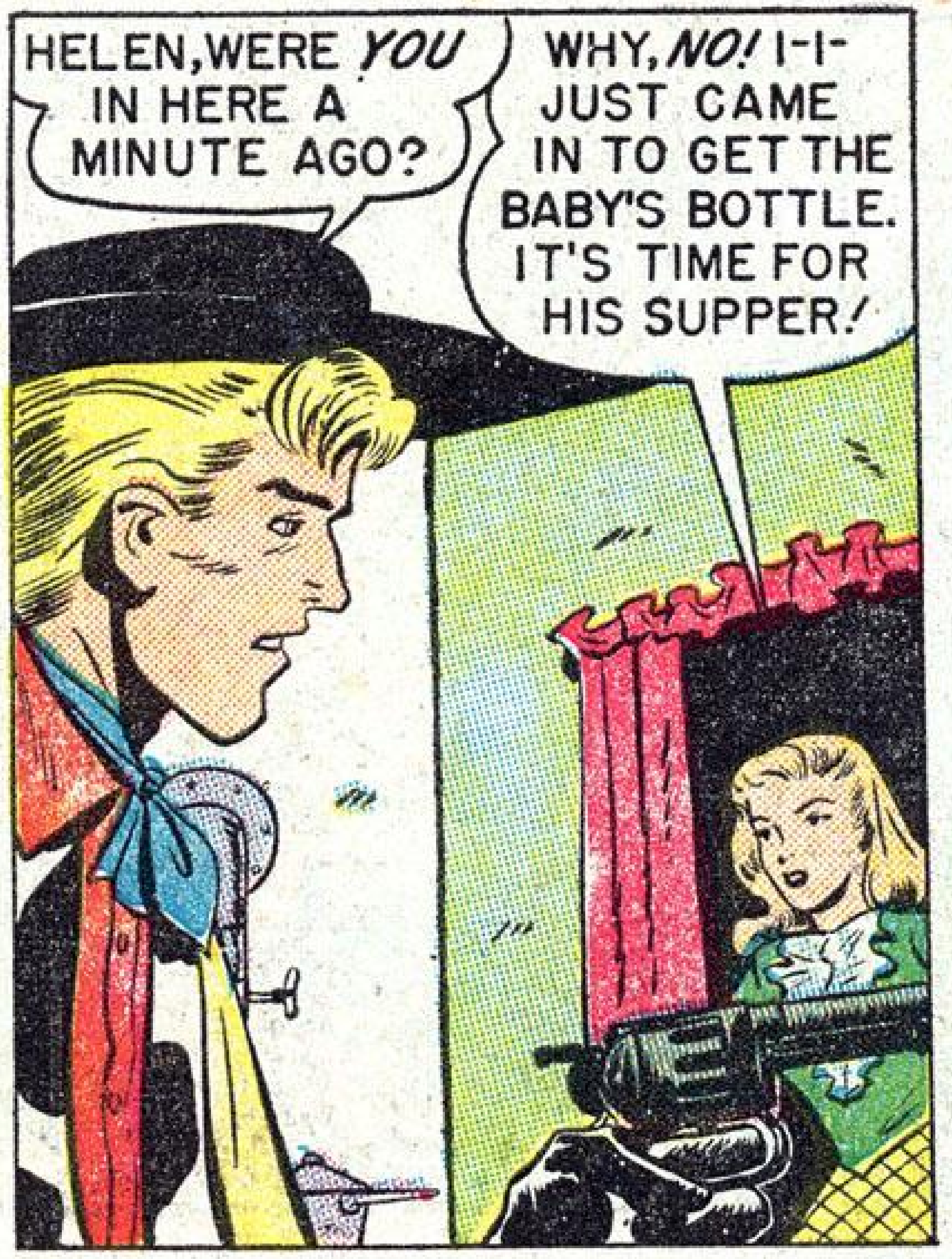

WHO'S THAT BELLIGERENT JASPER, MISS HELEN?
HE'S MY *FOREMAN!*
NOW SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME *WHO YOU ARE,* MISTER, AND *WHERE MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE ARE!*
RECKON YOU'VE GOT A *RIGHT* TO ASK THAT QUESTION, MA'AM! IT WAS LIKE THIS! I WAS CROSSIN' THE MOJAVE, WHEN...
KID COLT UNFOLDS THE SAD STORY TO THE SPUNKY GIRL...
...SO I BROUGHT HIM HERE! ME, I'M KID COLT, A *WANTED OUTLAW!*
THEY'D ONLY BEEN MARRIED A YEAR! *POOR DICK AND DORIS!* OH, WHAT'LL I DO NOW? I WAS *COUNTING SO MUCH* ON *DICK!*
I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU AN' THE LITTLE SHAVER I SAVED, MISS! IT'S UP TO YOU!
I HAVE *NO ONE ELSE* TO TURN TO! THINGS *COULDN'T BE WORSE,* ANYWAY! WE'LL KEEP PRETENDING YOU'RE DICK UNTIL...
LISTEN, YOU, DANNING! *I AIM TO BE HEARD! I'M* RUNNIN' THIS OUTFIT AN' NO EASTERN SQUIRT IS GONNA BRUSH *ME* ASIDE!
YOU NEED A LESSON IN MANNERS, HOMBRE!
DON'T *EVER COME IN HERE* UNLESS YOU'RE *TOLD* TO!
CRACK!
AN' WHEN YOU *DO* COME IN HERE, TAKE YOUR *HAT OFF!*
I'LL *KILL* YOU FOR THIS!

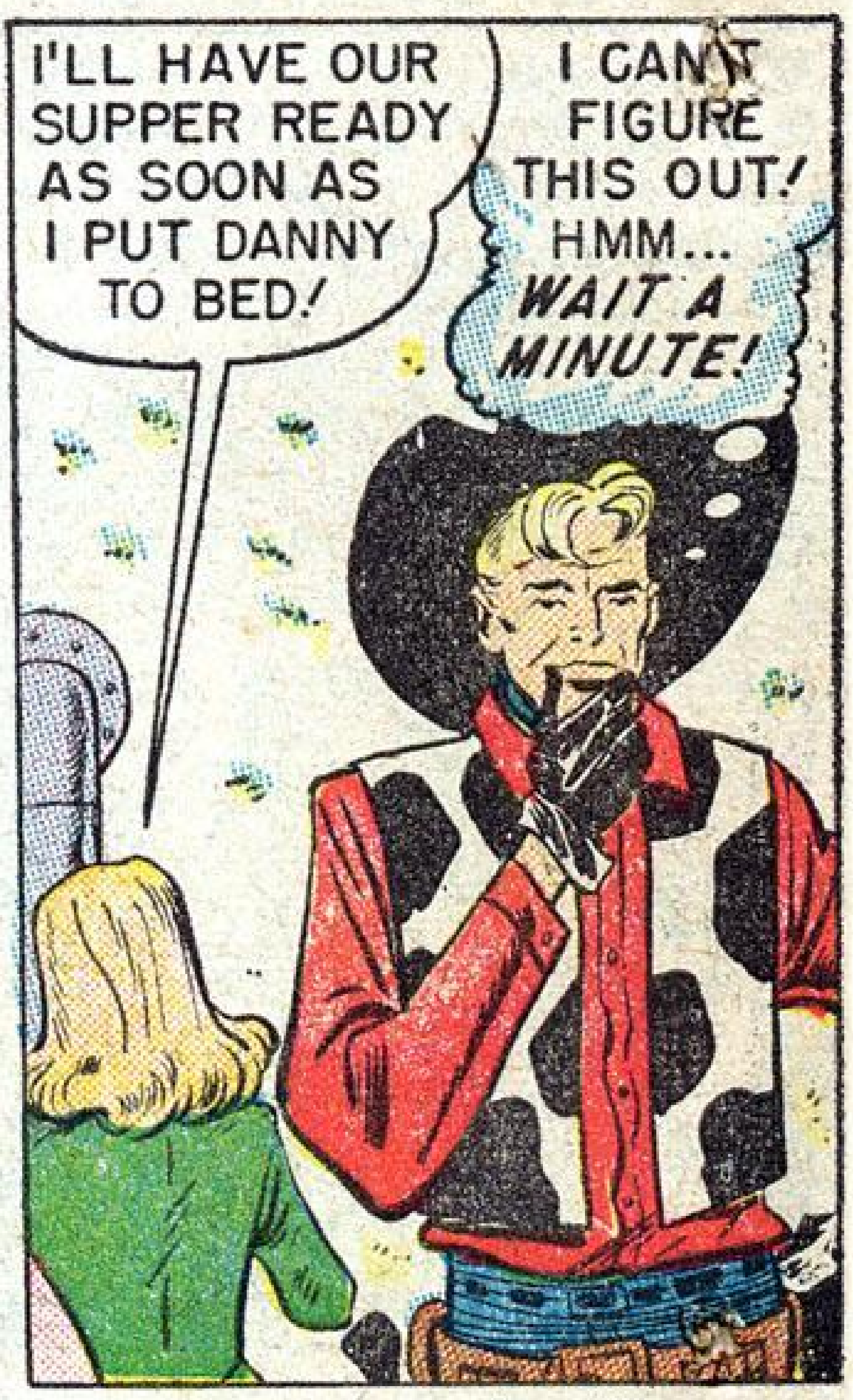

AS RED HITS THE GROUND, HE TWISTS, AND THE SUN GLINTS EVILLY ON THE BARREL OF HIS COLT AS IT GLEAMS UPWARD IN A SWIFT MURDEROUS DRAW!
YA *ASKED* FOR IT, YA...*ARRGH!*
A LITTLE SLOW, RED! A LITTLE SLOW!
BANG!
NOW *GET ON YOUR CAYUSE* AND *HIT THE TRAIL!*
NO, I'M *NOT GOIN'* AN YA CAN'T *MAKE ME* UNLESS YA *KILL* ME! I'M *STAYIN'* HERE!
WHEN KID COLT RETURNS TO THE RANCH HOUSE...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO'S THIS, HELEN? WHO FIRED THOSE SHOTS?
THIS IS MY BROTHER DICK, UNCLE AMOS! YOU SAW HIM WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE BOY! DICK, UNCLE AMOS CAN'T WALK, HIS BACK WAS HURT BY A RUNAWAY BRONC!
HOWDY, UNCLE AMOS!
DICK, NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, MAYBE *YOU* CAN POUND SOME SENSE INTO HELEN'S HEAD! SHE'S AS *BULL-HEADED* AS YOUR *FATHER*, MY HALF-BROTHER! MAKE HER *SELL OUT* AND *LEAVE* WHILE SHE'S *STILL ALIVE!*
I *WON'T SELL!* BUT OH, DICK, I'M SO FRIGHTENED! DAD WAS MURDERED IN HIS BED WHILE HE SLEPT, AND— AND I HEAR SOMEONE PROWLING AT NIGHT, AND...
AN' TELL HIM ABOUT THE *RATTLER* IN YOUR *BED*, AN' THE *POISON* IN YOUR *WATER!*
LOOKS LIKE *SOMEONE WANTS* YOU TO SELL OUT *BAD*, HELEN! RECKON I'LL SASHAY AROUND AN' LOOK THE SPREAD OVER!
BE CAREFUL, DICK! THERE'RE PLENTY OF PLACES FOR AMBUSHES ON THE RANCH!
SLOWLY, THE KID QUARTERS THE STAR CROSS, PONDERING DEEPLY ON THE FEELING OF UNCANNY TERROR THAT SEEMS TO ENVELOP THIS RANCH LIKE AN EVIL VEIL...
SOMETHING'S REAL BAD AROUND HERE! HMM...THOSE CATTLE ARE *AVOIDING* THAT *WATER HOLE!* LET'S MOSEY OVER AN' SEE WHY!
AT THE WATER HOLE, KID COLT MAKES A DISCOVERY THAT ANSWERS ONE PART OF THE RIDDLE OF STAR CROSS...
SO! *NO WONDER* SOMEONE'S SO ANXIOUS TO GET HOLD OF THIS RANCH!

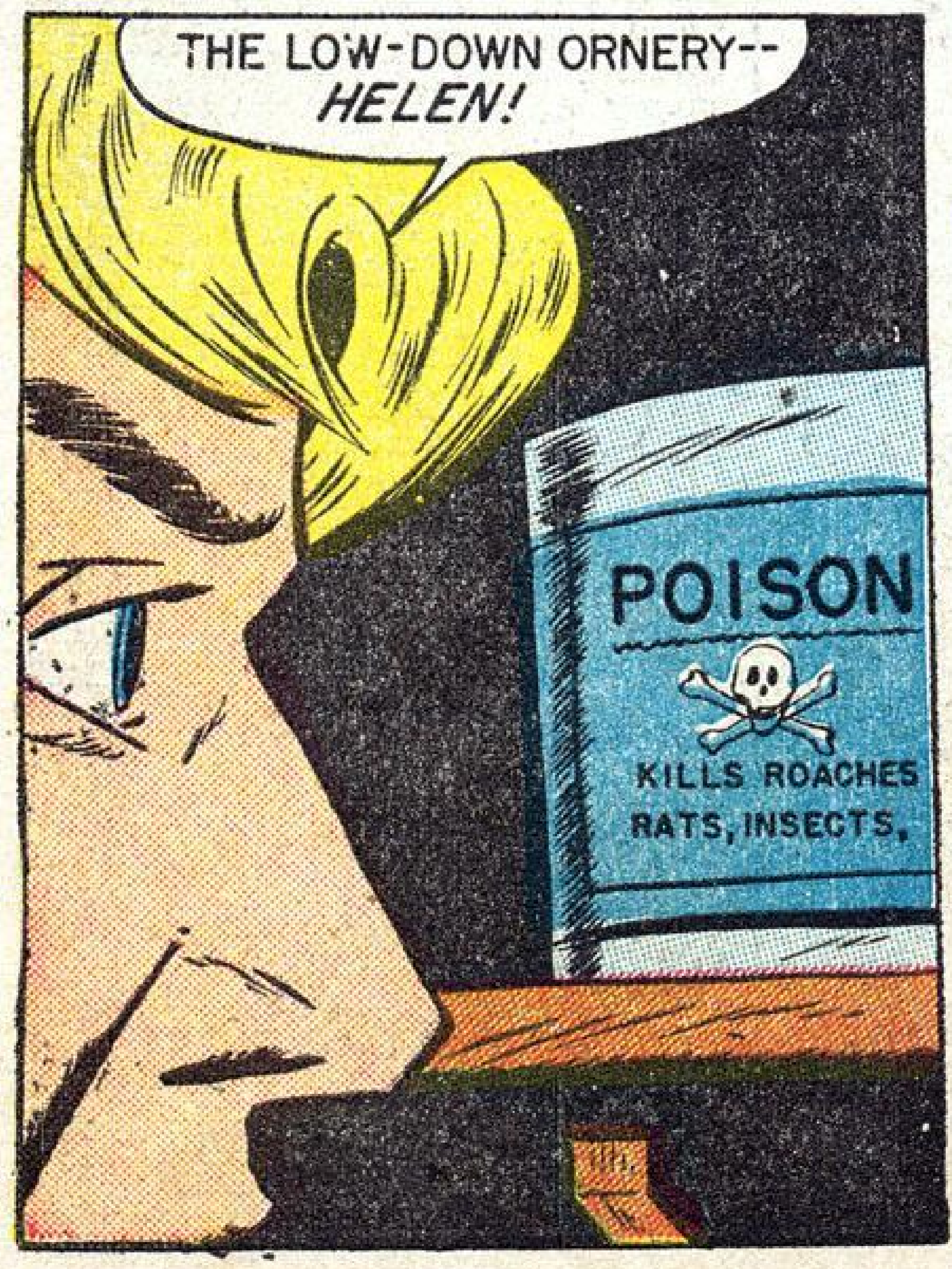

LET'S GO, STEEL, BACK TO THE RANCH! THE *OTHER PIECES* OF THE PUZZLE MUST BE THERE!
WARD
ID
OLT

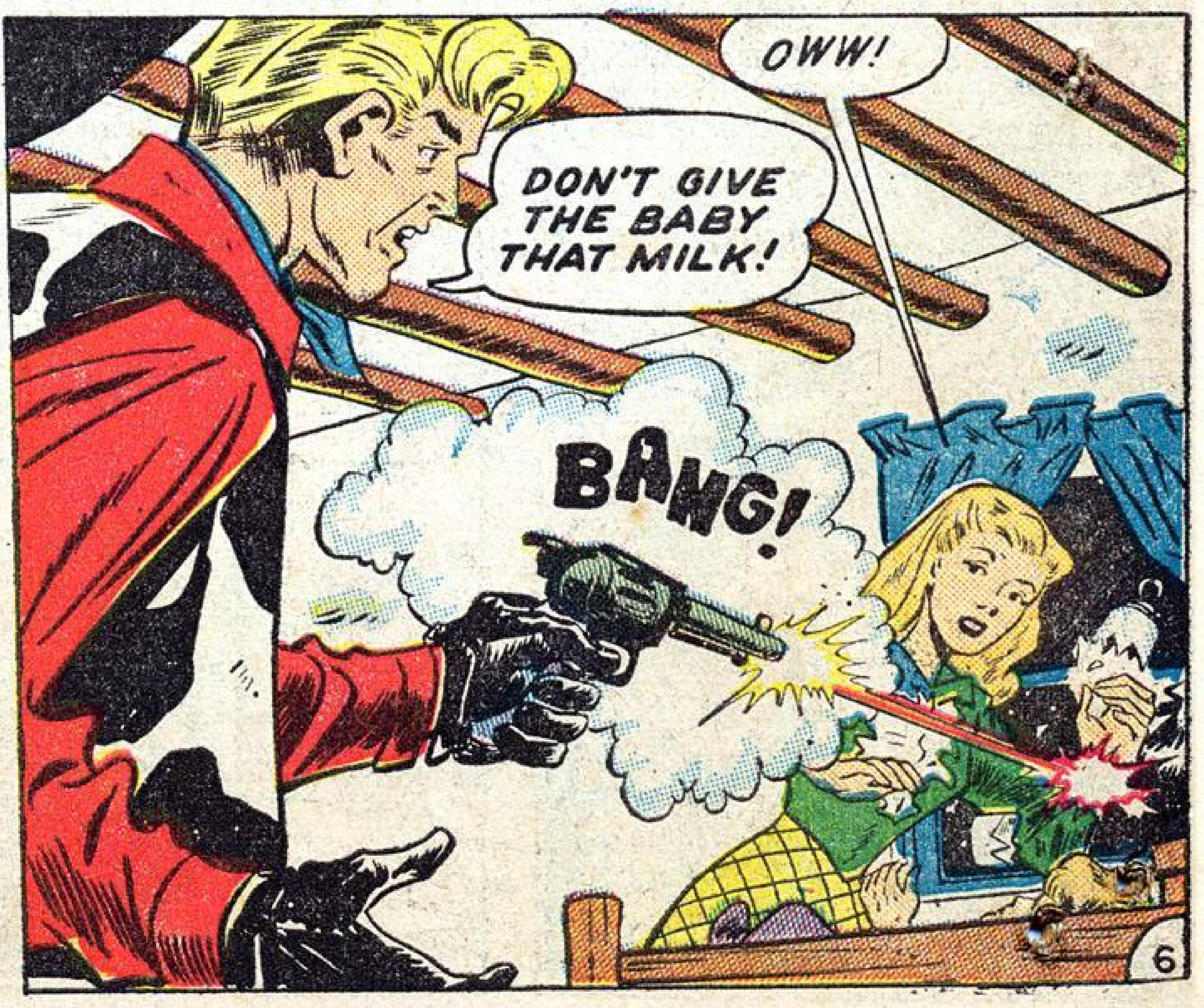

RECKON I'LL GRAB A BITE TO EAT BEFORE I-- *HEY! WHO'S IN THERE?*

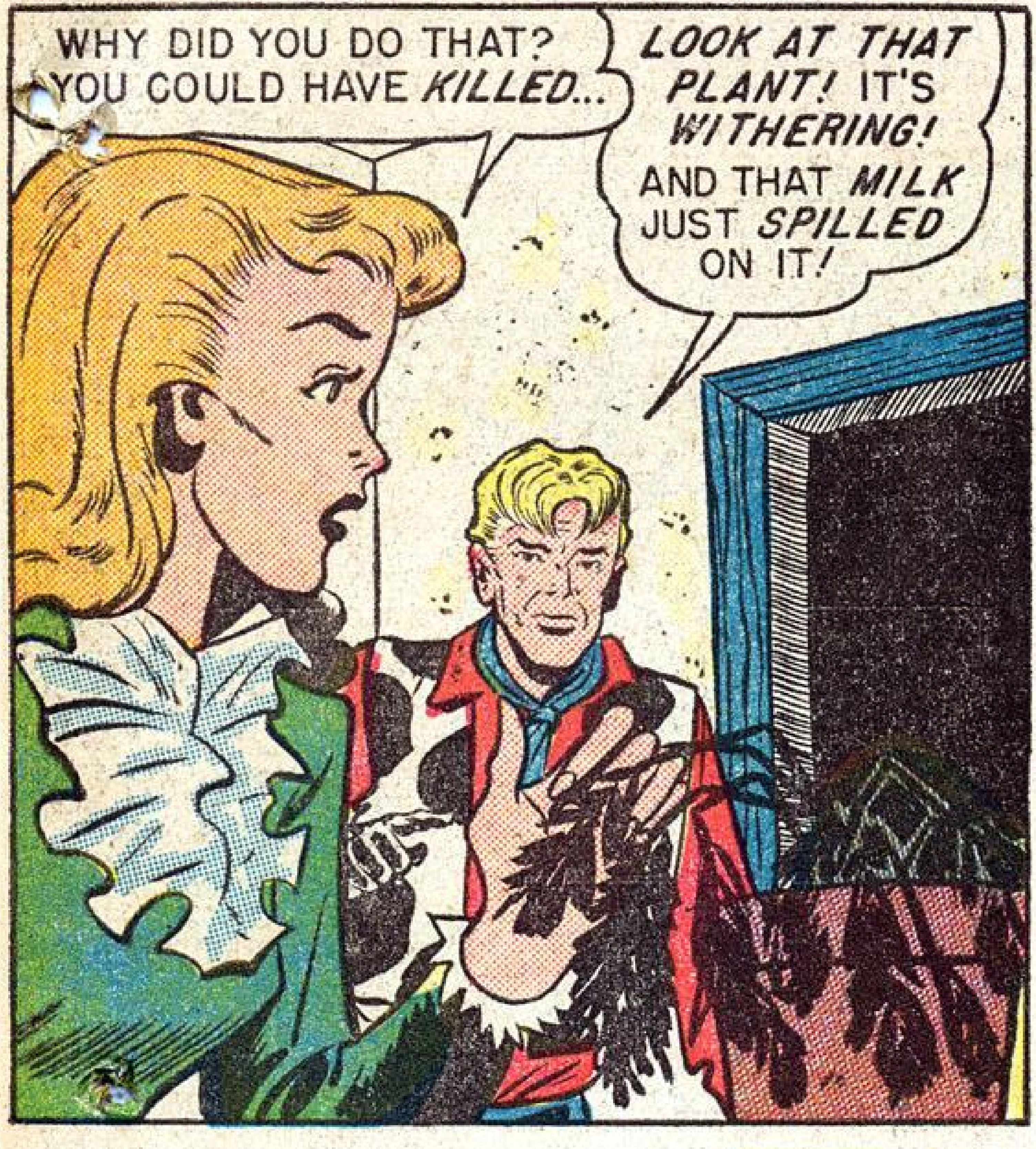

AT THE KID'S QUESTIONING SHOUT, THE SHADOW WHIRLS AND DISAPPEARS...
WHAT TH-?

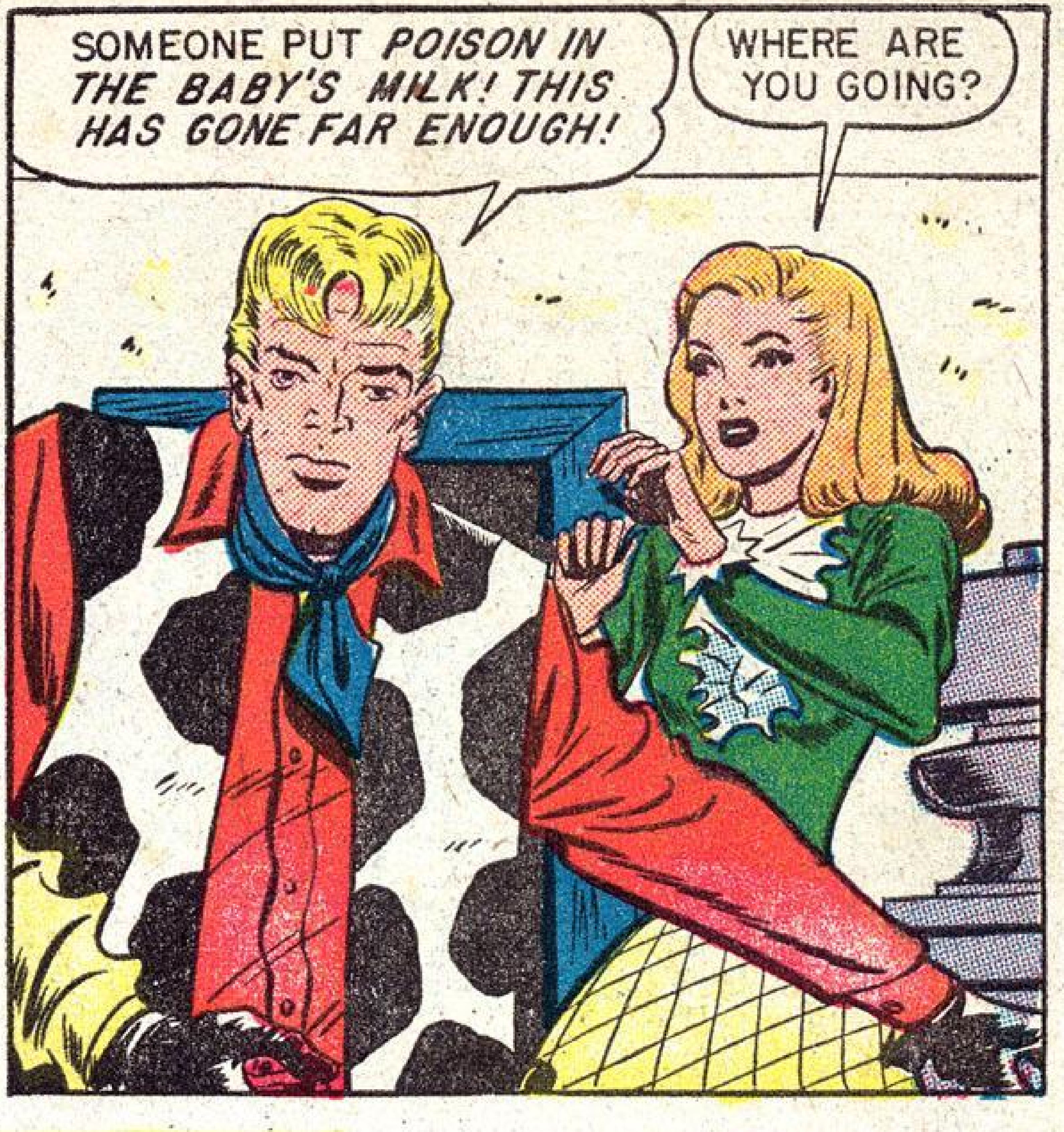

HELEN, WERE *YOU* IN HERE A MINUTE AGO?
WHY, *NO!* I-I- JUST CAME IN TO GET THE BABY'S BOTTLE. IT'S TIME FOR HIS SUPPER!

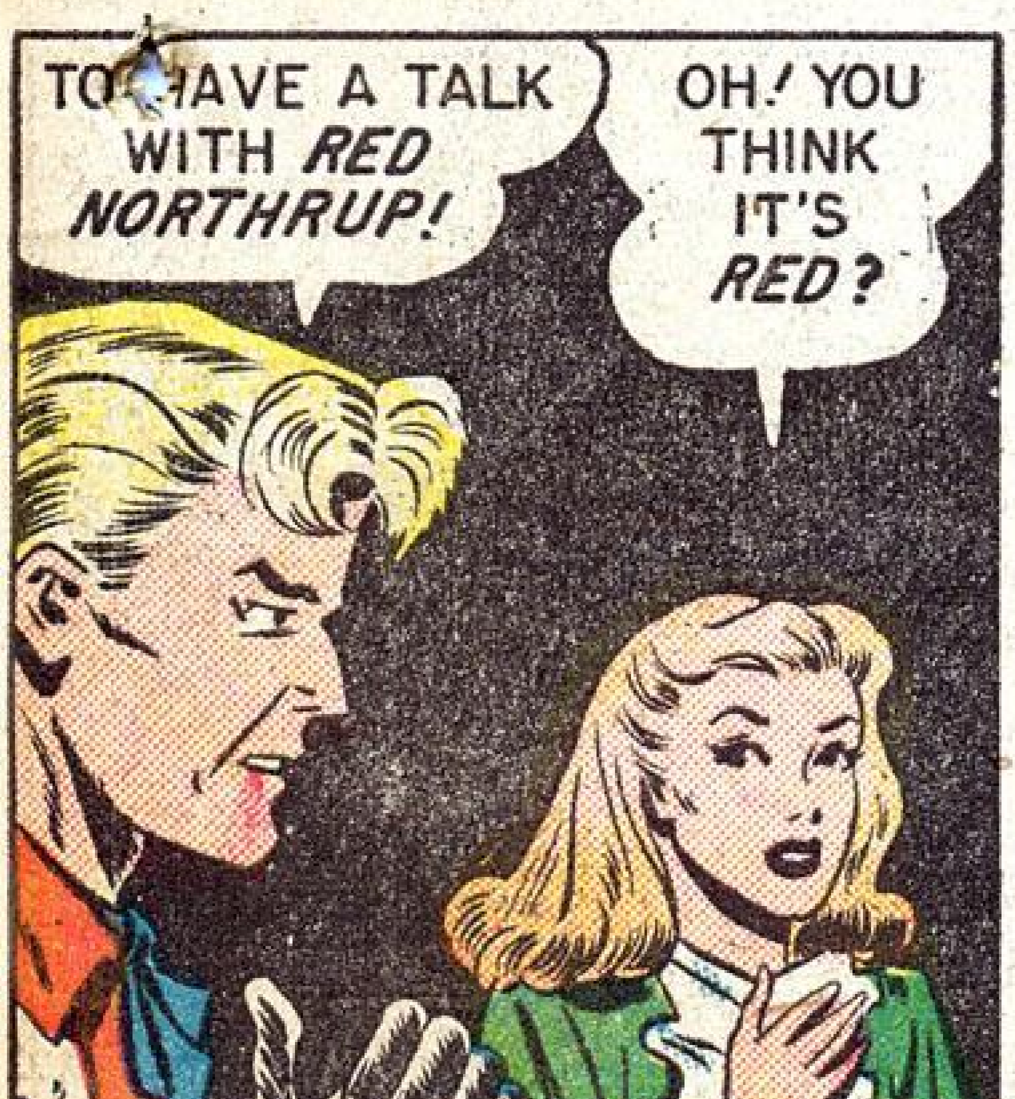

I'LL HAVE OUR SUPPER READY AS SOON AS I PUT DANNY TO BED!
I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT! HMM... *WAIT A MINUTE!*

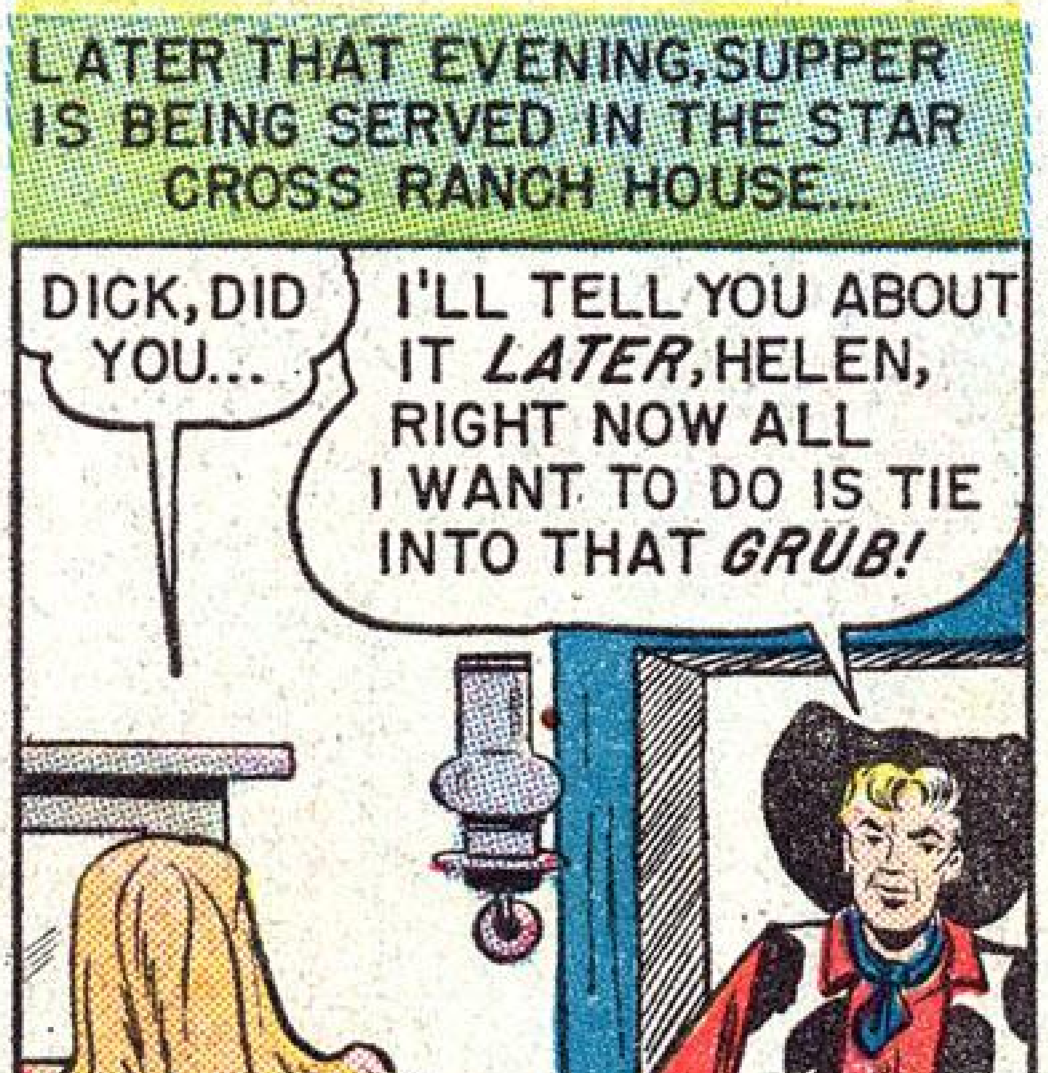

THE LOW-DOWN ORNERY-- *HELEN!*
POISON
KILLS ROACHES RATS, INSECTS.

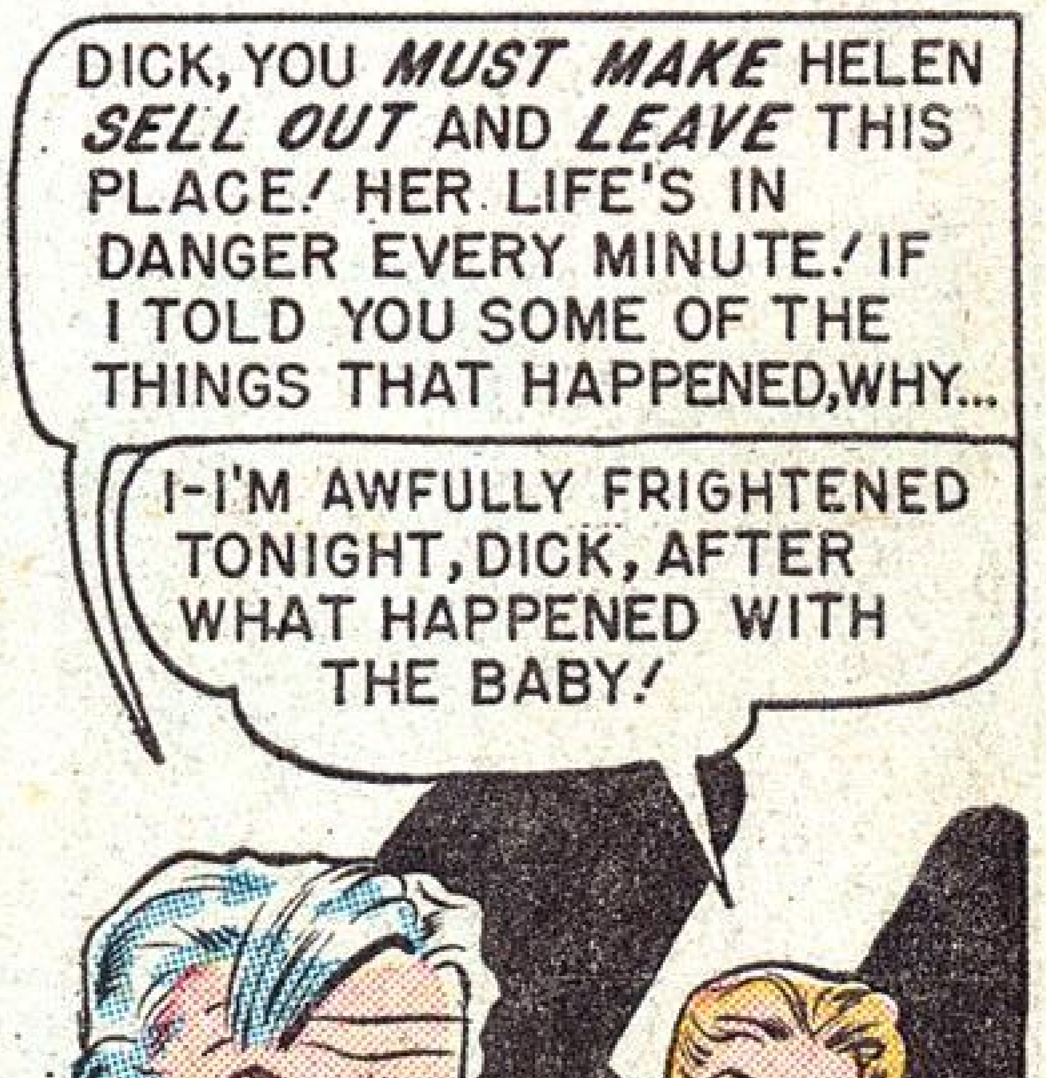

OWW!
DON'T GIVE THE BABY THAT MILK!
BANG!

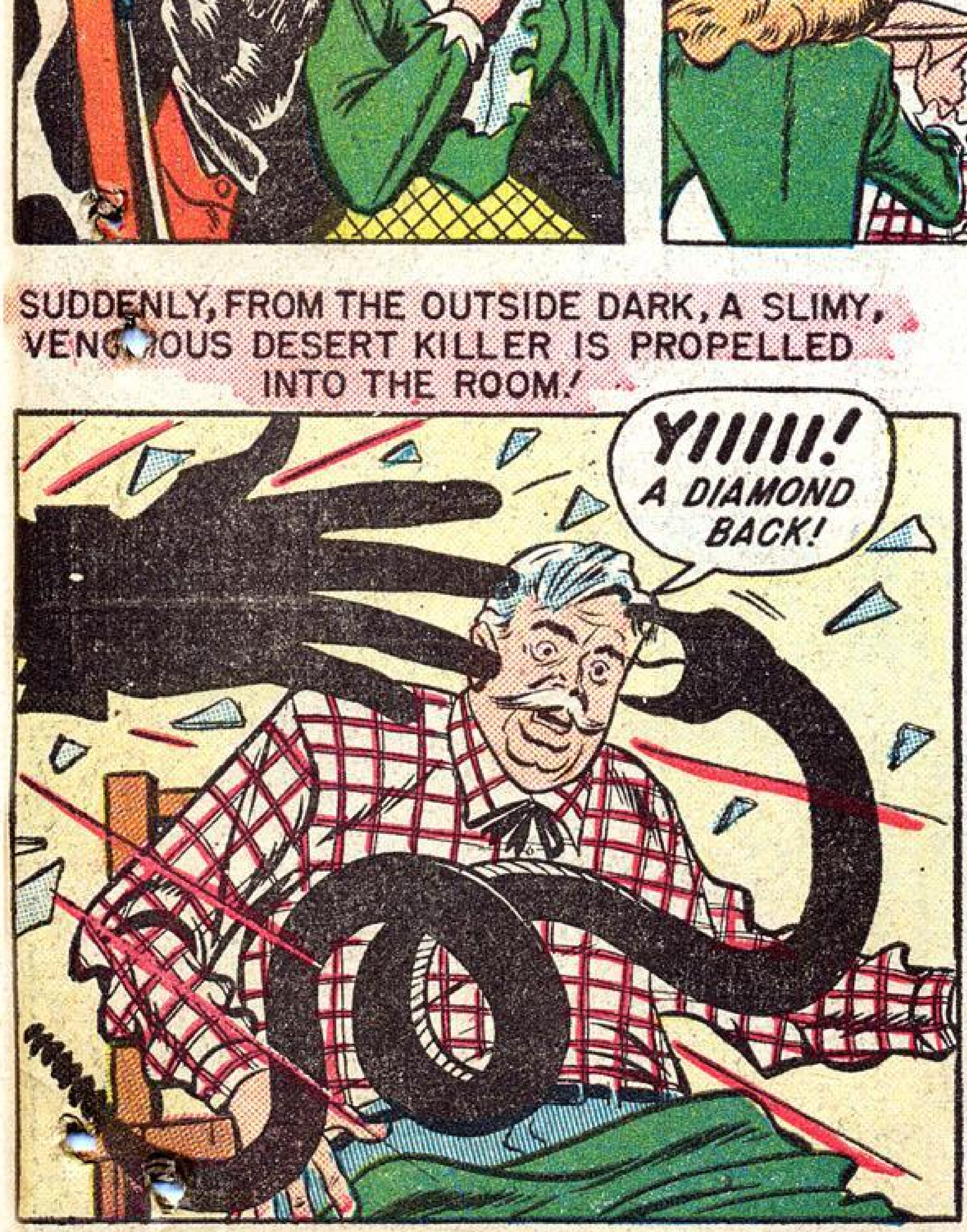

WHY DID YOU DO THAT? YOU COULD HAVE *KILLED*...
LOOK AT THAT PLANT! IT'S *WITHERING!* AND THAT *MILK* JUST *SPILLED* ON IT!

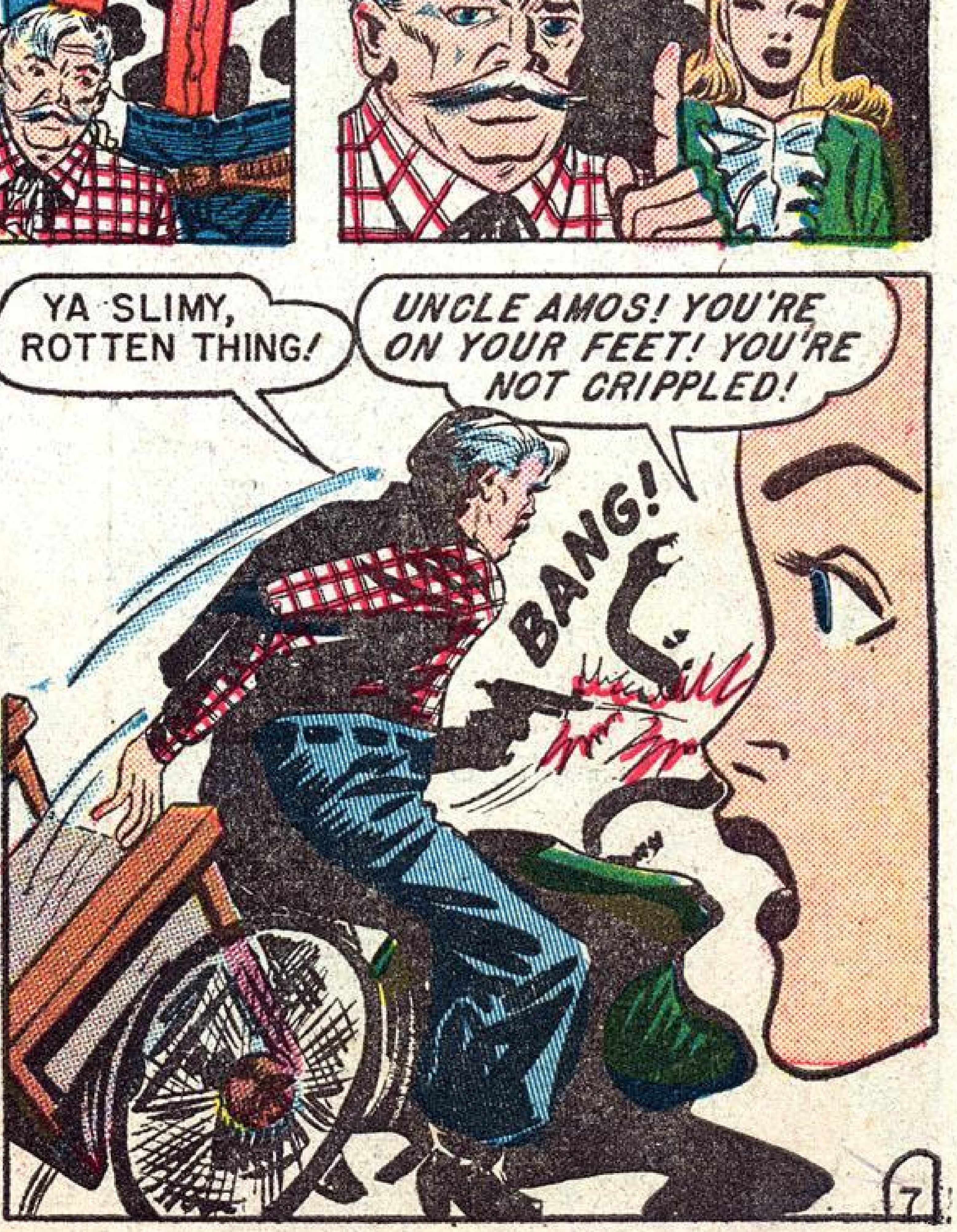

SOMEONE PUT *POISON IN THE BABY'S MILK! THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!*
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

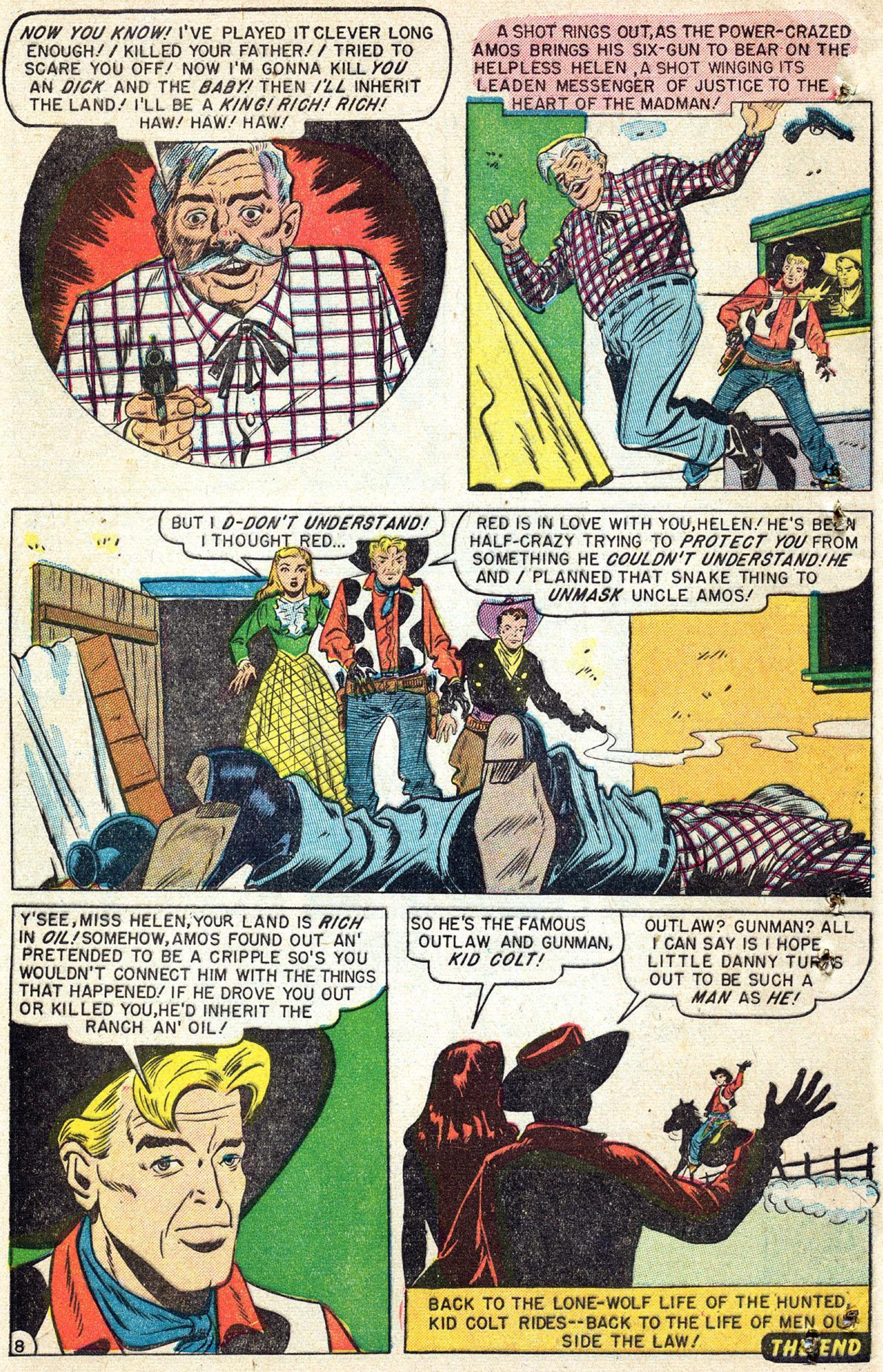

TO HAVE A TALK WITH *RED NORTHRUP!*
OH! YOU THINK IT'S *RED?*


LATER THAT EVENING, SUPPER IS BEING SERVED IN THE STAR CROSS RANCH HOUSE...
DICK, DID YOU...
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT *LATER*, HELEN, RIGHT NOW ALL I WANT TO DO IS TIE INTO THAT *GRUB!*


DICK, YOU *MUST MAKE* HELEN *SELL OUT* AND *LEAVE* THIS PLACE! HER LIFE'S IN DANGER EVERY MINUTE! IF I TOLD YOU SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED, WHY...
I-I'M AWFULLY FRIGHTENED TONIGHT, DICK, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE BABY!


SUDDENLY, FROM THE OUTSIDE DARK, A SLIMY, VENGEFUL DESERT KILLER IS PROPELLED INTO THE ROOM!
YIIIII! A DIAMOND BACK!


YA SLIMY, ROTTEN THING!
UNCLE AMOS! YOU'RE ON YOUR FEET! YOU'RE NOT CRIPPLED!
BANG!


NOW YOU KNOW! I'VE PLAYED IT CLEVER LONG ENOUGH! I KILLED YOUR FATHER! I TRIED TO SCARE YOU OFF! NOW I'M GONNA KILL YOU AN DICK AND THE BABY! THEN I'LL INHERIT THE LAND! I'LL BE A KING! RICH! RICH! HAW! HAW! HAW!
A SHOT RINGS OUT, AS THE POWER-CRAZED AMOS BRINGS HIS SIX-GUN TO BEAR ON THE HELPLESS HELEN, A SHOT WINGING ITS LEADEN MESSENGER OF JUSTICE TO THE HEART OF THE MADMAN!
BUT I D-DON'T UNDERSTAND! I THOUGHT RED...
RED IS IN LOVE WITH YOU, HELEN! HE'S BEEN HALF-CRAZY TRYING TO PROTECT YOU FROM SOMETHING HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND! HE AND I PLANNED THAT SNAKE THING TO UNMASK UNCLE AMOS!
Y'SEE, MISS HELEN, YOUR LAND IS RICH IN OIL! SOMEHOW, AMOS FOUND OUT AN' PRETENDED TO BE A CRIPPLE SO'S YOU WOULDN'T CONNECT HIM WITH THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED! IF HE DROVE YOU OUT OR KILLED YOU, HE'D INHERIT THE RANCH AN' OIL!
SO HE'S THE FAMOUS OUTLAW AND GUNMAN, KID COLT!
OUTLAW? GUNMAN? ALL I CAN SAY IS I HOPE LITTLE DANNY TURNS OUT TO BE SUCH A MAN AS HE!
BACK TO THE LONE-WOLF LIFE OF THE HUNTED, KID COLT RIDES--BACK TO THE LIFE OF MEN OUTSIDE THE LAW!
THE END

ADVICE TO COMIC READERS FOR

BAD SKIN

Stop Worrying Now About Pimples, Blackheads And Other Externally Caused Skin Troubles

JUST FOLLOW SKIN DOCTOR'S SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

Have you ever stopped to realize that the leading screen stars whom you admire, as well as the beautiful models who have lovely, soft white skin, were all born *just like you* with a lovely smooth skin?

The truth is that many girls and women do not give their skin a chance to show off the natural beauty that lies hidden underneath those externally caused pimples, blackheads and irritations. For almost anyone can have the natural, normal complexion which is in itself beauty. All you have to do is follow a few amazingly simple rules.

Many women shut themselves out of the thrills of life — dates, romance, popularity, social and business success — only because sheer neglect has robbed them of the good looks, poise and feminine self-assurance which could so easily be theirs. Yes, everybody looks at your face. The beautiful complexion, which is yours for the asking, is like a permanent card of admission to all the good things of life that every woman craves. And it really can be yours—take my word for it! — no matter how discouraged you may be this very minute about those externally caused skin miseries.

Medical science gives us the truth about a lovely skin. There are small specks of dust and dirt in the air all the time. When these get into the open pores in your skin, they can in time cause the pores to become larger and more susceptible to dirt particles, dust and infection. These open pores begin to form blackheads which become infected and bring you the humiliation of pimples, blackheads or other blemishes. When you neglect your skin by not giving it the necessary care, you leave yourself wide open to externally caused skin miseries. Yet proper attention with the double Viderm treatment may mean the difference between enjoying the confidence a fine skin gives you or the embarrassment of an ugly, *un*beautiful skin that makes you want to hide your face.

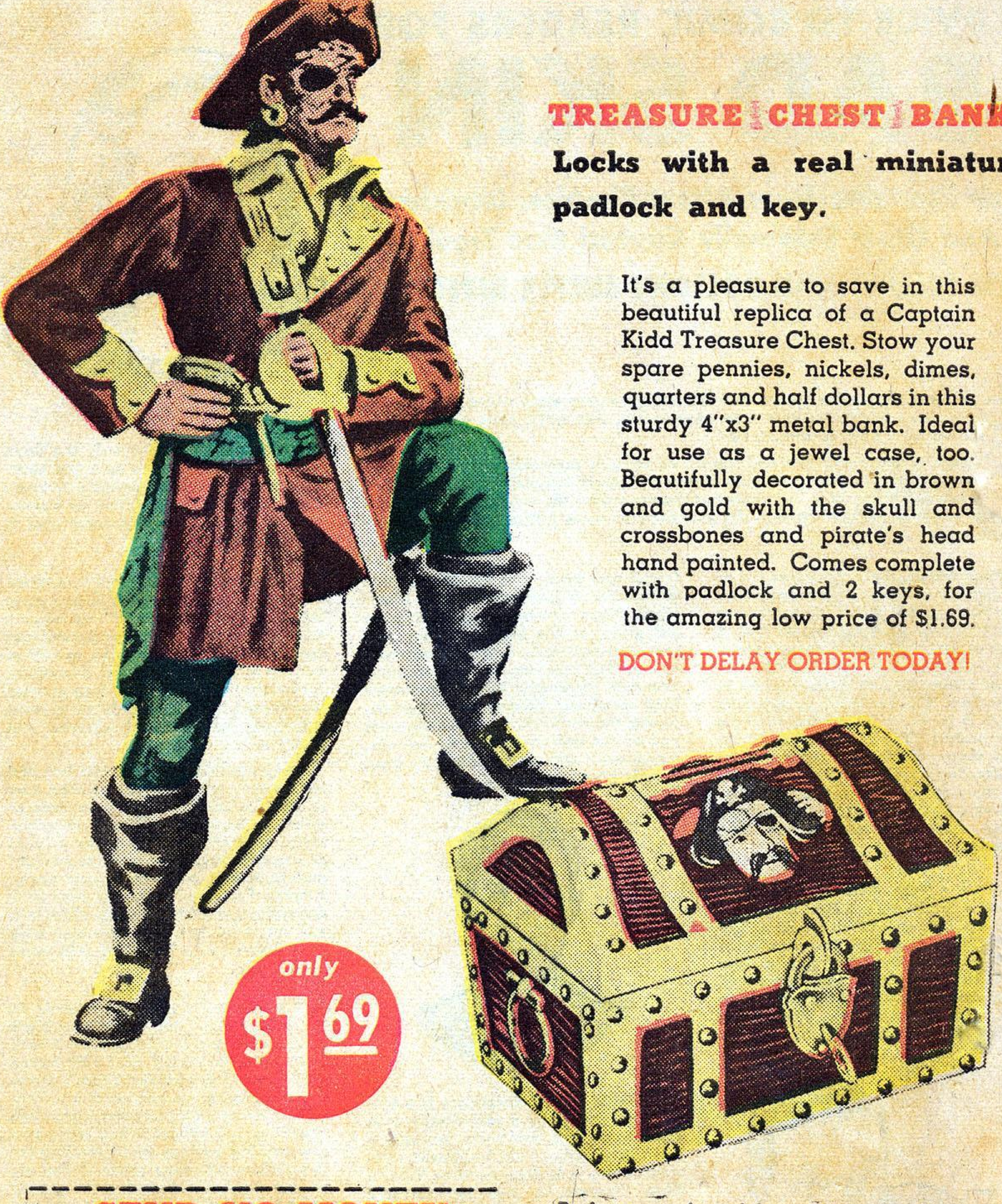
The double Viderm treatment is a formula prescribed by a skin doctor with amazing success, and costs you only a few cents daily. This treatment consists of two jars. One contains Viderm Skin Cleanser, a jelly-like formula which penetrates and acts as an antiseptic upon your pores. After you use this special Viderm Skin Cleanser, you simply apply the Viderm Fortified Medicated Skin Cream. You rub this in, leaving an almost invisible protective covering for the surface of your skin.

This double treatment has worked wonders for so many cases of external skin troubles that it may help you, too —*in fact, your money will be refunded if it doesn't*. Use it for only ten days. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. It is a guaranteed treatment. Enjoy it. Your dream of a clear, smooth complexion may come true in ten days or less.

Use your double Viderm treatment every day until your skin is smoother and clearer. Then use it only once a week to remove stale make-up and dirt specks that infect your pores, as well as to aid in healing external irritations. Remember that when you help prevent blackheads, you also help to prevent externally caused skin miseries and pimples.

Incidentally, while your two jars and the doctor's directions are on their way to you, be sure to wash your face as often as necessary. First use warm water, then cleanse with water as cold as you can stand it, in order to freshen, stimulate and help close your pores. After you receive everything, read your directions carefully. Then go right to it and let these two fine formulas help your dreams of a beautiful skin come true.

Just mail your name and address to Betty Memphis, care of the New York Skin Laboratory, 206 Division Street, Dept. 513 New York 2, N. Y. By return mail you will receive the doctor's directions, and both jars, packed in a safety-sealed carton. On delivery, pay two dollars plus postage. If you wish, you can save the postage fee by mailing the two dollars with your letter. If you are in any way dissatisfied, your money will be cheerfully refunded. To give you an idea of how fully tested and proven the Viderm double treatment is, it may interest you to know that, up to this month, over two hundred and twelve thousand women have ordered it on my recommendation. If you could only see the thousands of happy, grateful letters that have come to me as a result, you would know the joy this simple treatment can bring. And, think of it! — the treatment must work for *you*, or it doesn't cost you a cent.



Thrilling! New!

TREASURE CHEST BANK.

Locks with a real miniature padlock and key.

It's a pleasure to save in this beautiful replica of a Captain Kidd Treasure Chest. Stow your spare pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and half dollars in this sturdy 4"x3" metal bank. Ideal for use as a jewel case, too. Beautifully decorated in brown and gold with the skull and crossbones and pirate's head hand painted. Comes complete with padlock and 2 keys, for the amazing low price of $1.69.

DON'T DELAY ORDER TODAY!

SEND NO MONEY

SHAR-LEE CO.
425 W. Superior St., Dept. C
Chicago 10, Illinois

Send me the Treasure Chest Bank on 10 day trial at only $1.69 each. I may return it within 10 days for full purchase price refund.

Name ______________________

Address ______________________

City ____________ Zone ______ State ____________

☐ I am enclosing $1.69. Send Treasure Chest Bank

Rush your order while we can offer the complete Treasure Chest with padlock and key for only $1.69.

Send no money. Pay postman $1.69 plus a few cents postage on delivery. Or send payment in advance and we will pay postage. Inspect the Treasure Chest Bank for 10 days. If not delighted, return it and your money will be cheerfully refunded. Don't delay—order today.

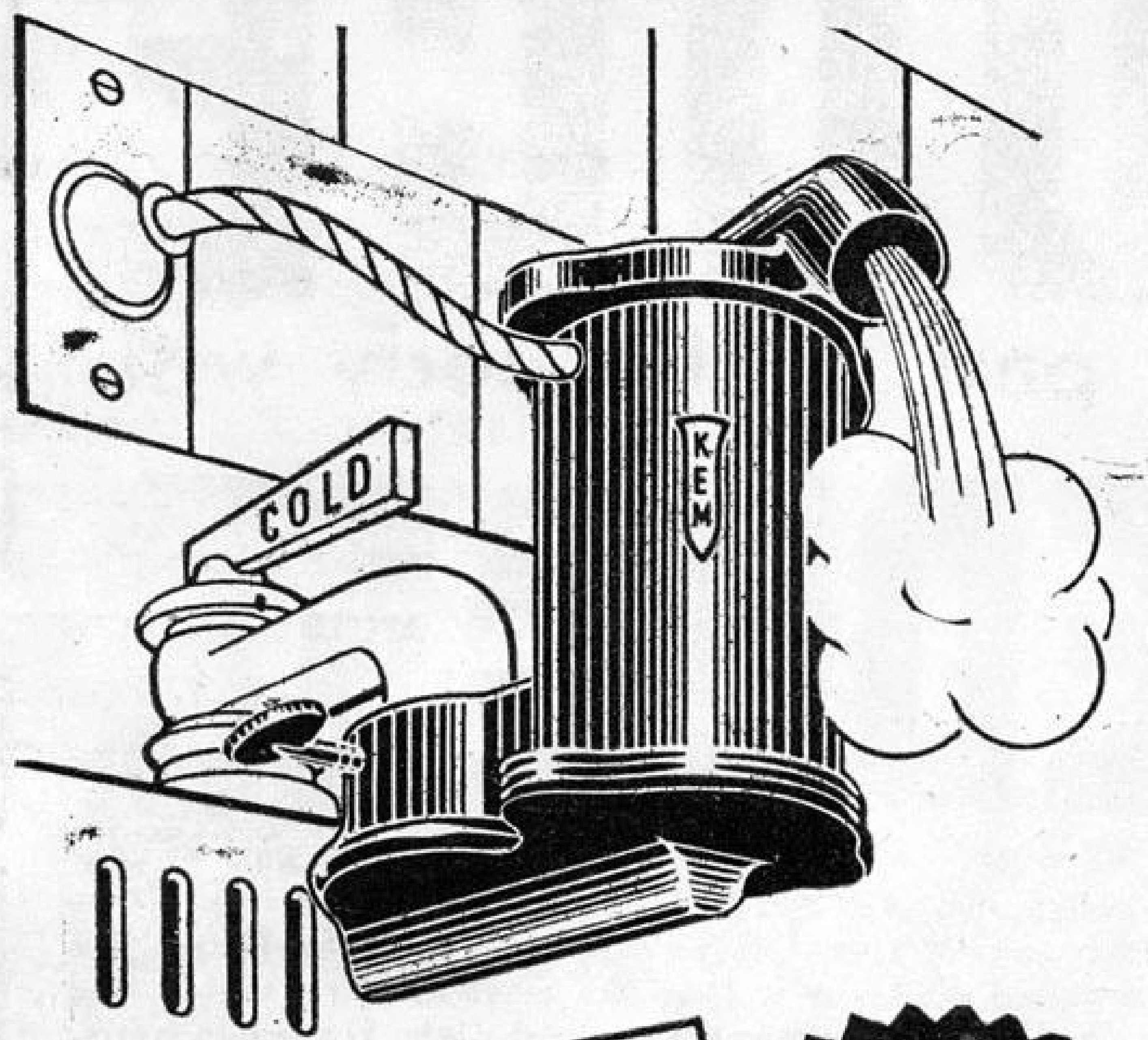
Running HOT WATER

-in a *Jiffy!* from any COLD WATER FAUCET

For every kitchen need

For quick shaving

A No. 1 beauty aid



Seems too good to be true until you see hot water running continuously from any cold water sink faucet! With the revolutionary new KEM INSTANT HOT WATER HEATER you get hot water — from lukewarm to real hot right when you want it!

No Boiler or Tank Needed

No waiting or fussing with fires.

Just Turn Faucet To Regulate Temperature

A slight turn of your sink faucet gives you water of any desired temperature from lukewarm to real hot.

Easily and Quickly Attached

Takes only a few seconds to attach or remove KEM INSTANT HOT WATER HEATER. No special skill or knowledge required. Easier to operate than the average electric iron!

Fits Any Standard Faucet

KEM INSTANT HOT WATER HEATER fills a long and urgent need in basement, garage, cottage, tourist camp, office and factory — and when home hot water supply fails in kitchen or bathroom sink.

Fully Guaranteed

Heater is skillfully made and guaranteed against any and all defects in material and workmanship. With ordinary care, it gives many years of satisfactory service.

KEM COMPANY, Dept 198, 18 E. 41st St., New York 17, N. Y.

NOW ONLY $3.98

✓ *Check* THESE ADVANTAGES

- ✓ NO MOVING PARTS to wear away or get out of order
- ✓ Runs on AC or DC current
- ✓ Constructed of handsomely finished aluminum
- ✓ Measures 2 3/4" x 3 3/4", requiring small storage space when not in use
- ✓ Fits any standard cold water faucet
- ✓ Carries 6-foot extension cord
- ✓ Takes only few seconds to attach or remove
- ✓ Exceedingly low cost operation — costs only a few cents a day to use
- ✓ Fully guaranteed against defects in material or workmanship

SOLD ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE IF KEM HEATER FAILS TO GIVE INSTANT HOT WATER!

Don't be inconvenienced another day by lack of hot water in home, cottage, office or factory. ORDER YOUR KEM HEATER TODAY! SEND NO MONEY. Just fill in and mail coupon and then pay the postman $3.98 plus postage when your heater is delivered, or send $3.98 and we will pay postage.

KEM COMPANY, Dept. 198
18 East 41st Street, New York 17, N. Y.

☐ Rush KEM HOT WATER HEATER C.O.D., I'll pay postman $3.98 plus postage.

☐ Enclose $3.98, send postpaid.

NAME..

STREET..

CITY...ZONE ....STATE......................

Reducing Specialist Says:

"Thanks to the Spot Reducer, I lost four inches around the hips and three inches around the waistline. It's amazing." Mary Martin, Long Island City, N. Y.

LOSE WEIGHT

where it shows most

REDUCE

most any part of the body with

SPOT REDUCER

Miss Nancy Mace, Bronx, N. Y., says: "I went from size 16 dress to a size 12 with the use of the Spot Reducer. I am glad I used it."

Like a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steam baths, drugs or laxatives.

Thousands have lost weight this way—in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, buttocks, etc. The same method used by many stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The "Spot Reducer" can be used in your spare time in your own room. It breaks down fatty tissues, tones the muscles and flesh, and the increased, awakened blood circulation carries away waste fat. Two weeks after using the "Spot Reducer," look in the mirror and see a more glamorous, better, firmer, slimmer figure that will delight you. You have nothing to lose but weight for the "Spot Reducer" is sold on a money-back guarantee.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE With a 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the "Spot Reducer" doesn't do the wonders for you as it has for others, if you don't lose weight and inches where you want to lose it most, if you're not 100% delighted with the results, your money will be returned at once.

Marie Hammel, New York, N. Y., says: "I used to wear a size 20 dress, now I wear size 14, thanks to the Spot Reducer. It was fun and I enjoyed it."

FREE

A large size jar of Special Formula Body Massage Cream will be included FREE with your order for the "Spot Reducer."

MAIL COUPON NOW!

The "Spot Reducer" Co., Dept. MC-9
871 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Send me at once, for $2 cash, check or money order, the "Spot Reducer" and your famous Special Formula Body Massage Cream, postpaid. If I am not 100% satisfied, my money will be refunded.

Name______________________________

Address____________________________

City____________________ State__________